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*We beg leave to state that we decline to return or to enter into correspondence as to rejected communications; and to this rule we can make no exception. Manuscripts not acknowledged within four weeks are rejected.*

**NOTES OF THE WEEK.**

We have at last some definite information of the movement of Japanese troops. A strong force is established at An-ju some seventy miles south of the Yalu and it is estimated that about 90,000 men will compose the Korean force. The Russian cavalry seen south of the Yalu seem to have retired before the advance and it is no doubt Russia's policy for the time being to do no more than harass the Japanese advance. The comparatively small numbers of the Korean force suggest that the main line of advance will not be from the Korean base, though whatever flanking tactics are adopted the task of holding the country and assuring communications in North Korea must be a condition precedent to success. Political interest is chiefly centred on Niu-chwang. The Americans in especial are showing themselves rather fussily nervous about their interests there; and the nervousness is made an excuse for anti-Russian animus. Now that the ice is breaking up fast in the harbour the intrinsic value of Niu-chwang as a strategic position becomes emphasised. Russia is in possession of Mukden behind it, and of the railway. What becomes of the neutrality of China if having blocked Port Arthur the Japanese deliver their attack on Niu-chwang, a line of attack admirably adapted for cutting the Port Arthur communications?

So far nothing has arrived from the Japanese side to explain the movements made against Port Arthur on the 21st. From Russian sources we learn that at midnight two, and again at 4 A.M. three, torpedo-boats attempted to approach the outer roadstead but were driven off. With the break of day the main fleet of six battleships, twelve cruisers and eight torpedo-boats drew up to the place, whereupon the Russian ships led by Admiral Makaroff proceeded from the inner anchorage to the outer roadstead. At 9 A.M. the Japanese opened fire from behind Liau-tie-shan and after two hours' practice withdrew, and passed by the Russian ships without attacking them. If any conclusion can be drawn from these facts, it

is likely enough that the torpedo-boats have again been busy laying or trying to lay mines.

Attention is for the moment drawn from the doings of belligerents to the manœuvres now being carried out in the neighbourhood of Portsmouth. Submarine A1—the largest and newest of the boats of her class—was struck by the Union-Castle liner "Berwick Castle" yesterday week and sunk with all her crew—Lieut. Loftus O. C. Mansergh, Sub-Lieut. John P. Churchill and nine men. The submarine was submerged at the time so no one can be blamed for the lamentable collision, but the accident is a forcible reminder of the risks run by our officers and men in the ordinary course of duty, "involving", as the Commander-in-Chief says in his message to the flotilla, "all the risks of war".

Before leaving India for his short spell of rest Lord Curzon has the satisfaction of announcing yet another prosperity budget. The surplus of the current year turns out to be something like a million and three-quarters above the estimate. Moreover this is not the result, as it was last year, of flagrant underestimating. Opium contributes the largest item but its notorious uncertainty justifies a prudent forecast. Railways have contributed over a million to the excess. There is no head of revenue which can be viewed with more satisfaction. It is an income from invested capital of a highly progressive character, increasing yearly by great strides and justifying the wisdom and skill of the policy which has regulated this magnificent public investment. There is yet no horizon to the prospective benefits it discloses. The increased earnings of the Mint from fresh coinage of silver amount to nearly 2½ millions. This sum, having been transferred to the gold reserve, is excluded from the balance available for general purposes. It is well to recognise that the revenue and surplus of the year are really greater by this very large sum. The decreased price of salt has enlarged its consumption beyond the moderate calculation of last year, while the expansion of revenue under such heads as excise customs and land revenue demonstrates the economic progress of the country.

The budget for the coming year anticipates, and with reason, a continuance of that prosperity. The revenue is placed above eighty millions though opium is prudently written down by a large amount. It does not appear however that any fresh remission of

taxation will be proposed. Eight millions are to be spent on railways and nearly a million on irrigation. The greatest part of this capital expenditure will be met by loans. New and extraordinary charges for military improvements will be thrown on revenue, including £700,000 for new artillery and rifles and nearly half a million for additional pay of British soldiers. The total cost of the army will exceed eighteen millions. It is on these charges that discussion may be expected to centre even though the position of affairs in the East has rendered military efficiency a first necessity. It cannot however be said that the civil administration is starved when nearly an additional million is provided. The progressive revenue anticipated under the other heads which are associated with prosperity indicates that the shadow of famine has lifted and normal conditions have been restored. It may therefore be possible to float the rupee loan in India but that would still leave the home market threatened with a considerable sterling loan.

A serious reverse has been sustained by the German forces in South-West Africa at the hands of the Hereros, said to be few in number, who refused to surrender recently when the majority gave in. Major von Glasenapp riding with his staff in advance of the main body was ambushed and lost seven officers and nineteen non-commissioned officers and men killed, whilst most of the party, including the Major, were wounded. The check has come at a time when Colonel Leutwein, the Governor, was confident that the end of the trouble was in sight. Apparently the trap into which Major von Glasenapp fell was precisely the same as that set so frequently for our men by the Boers. To what extent the Germans on the spot will be able to deal with the victorious Hereros there is nothing to show. Colonel Leutwein has telegraphed home for reinforcements and for railway materials, and both are being hurried out. The disaster justifies the doubts we expressed at the beginning of the trouble whether the small German forces could hope to quell a rising of warlike natives numerically one hundred times their strength in a country half as big as Germany. The Germans have made the British mistake of holding their enemy too cheap.

Mr. Stead at Cape Town may be said to have reckoned without his host. He was on his way to visit Lord Milner, his old protégé, but on arrival at the Cape took occasion to make an inflammatory speech on the duty of keeping green the memory of rebels. Lord Milner at once issued orders that his guest was to be kept out of the Transvaal as a person likely to arouse racial animosity. We seem to remember that once before Mr. Stead for just such a reason found an engagement with the foremost man in South Africa cancelled just at the last moment. Mr. Rhodes struck out the name of the Trustee, he said, because of the late discovery of his "peculiar views". One can only wonder that a man with whom peculiar views have been a normal state these twenty years should have twice evaded discovery till the last moment. Mr. Stead is a very clever man, but has a way of running things a little too fine.

In the House on Thursday Sir W. Foster made the lamentable outbreak of plague in Johannesburg the occasion for an important debate on the internal management of the town. How the plague was introduced we have as yet no information, but it is tolerably certain that the insanitary state of the Asiatic quarter is one condition of its deadliness. The Opposition used the occasion to suggest, in different forms, that the outbreak was an interference of providence to prevent the further importation of Chinese and was a judgment on Lord Milner. Tracing more nearly the nexus between cause and effect, the case as explained by Mr. Lyttelton suggests a contrary lesson. The quarter has not been purified from its long-established condition only because there were no labourers to do the work. The town council has a picked staff of men, capable and energetic; and if Chinese had been already introduced in greater numbers, the council would have

found workmen to do the sanitary work that has been perforce suspended. The debate was disgraced by a personal attack on Lord Milner, which merely weakened Mr. Lloyd-George's perfectly justifiable if excessively persistent attempt to get all the information he could on the state of the Transvaal.

To select the question of Chinese labour for a double vote of censure was an excellent party move, as thoroughly dishonest as it was probably effective—in the constituencies. More than one member of the Opposition made no attempt to conceal his private opinion that the slavery cry was all nonsense; bunkum was a word used. But the general hostility towards Chinese workmen, and the ignorant notion that they would drive out white labour, are prejudices that may be exploited to some purpose by partisan politicians; and Major Seely, who is retiring and going to his constituency on the subject, is a good example of the Unionist who hopes to ensure his seat by "ratting". The debate was vigorous enough though there was nothing new to be said. But the Opposition was forced to plump for the slavery argument and the occasion served to show that the Government have a fairly solid majority of over fifty, in moments of energy. An analysis of the voting figures finally makes an authentic list of seceders possible.

If there were any in the Opposition who genuinely thought they were championing the white man, Lord Selborne's illustration must have finally turned their blindness into conscious hypocrisy. He knew of an officer who, asked to find employment for 150 troopers, offered them work in the mines at 10s. a day. All but one refused and this man gave up in a week or two because he could not stand being called a "white Kaffir". The same point was raised in the Commons. Mr. Burns said he had himself worked with the black man in West Africa; but Mr. Lyttelton's retort that he was in that case the captain of the eleven was as true as it was witty: Mr. Burns' comradeship was possibly qualified with a whip. The other day we heard a South African repeatedly express wonder, as he drove through an English country district, to see "white men working" and that a white woman should clean a doorstep seemed to him a total surrender of caste. Every educated man knows how the case stands in South Africa. There is shortage of black labour, white men refuse to dig in mines, and little as most people would like the remedy, if there were choice, Chinamen in the judgment of the colony itself have become a necessity to save the situation. The constituencies might also remember that any deficit in the Transvaal must be made good by the taxpayer here.

Much has been made of the absence of Unionists from the division in the Commons. To whom is it due that Lord Rosebery's absence through the whole of the debate in the Lords has been unheeded? Is this secession no qualification of the new Liberal unity? Lord Rosebery keeps too large a share of his early imperial zeal to support a protest so opposed to colonial interest. He "sees the better and approves" and hopes to get out of the imputation of "following the worse" by following no one. The compromise is essentially unwise. Lord Rosebery has a unique position and his isolation might possibly be splendid if he would atone for deficiency in the commonest party virtues by speaking his mind emphatically as opportunity prompted; but if he will neither be loyal to a party nor loyal to himself, his last hope of influence is gone. On this occasion he has himself demolished admiration for his avoidance of dishonesty by raising contempt for his absence of courage.

Loud Ministerial cheers greeted the refusal of the Speaker to accept Mr. Crooks' innocent-seeming motion a minute before midnight on Thursday for ending the debate on the wages in Government factories and shipyards. A good many people reading the report of the debate and noting the "loud Ministerial cheers" must be a little mystified thereat. The Ministerialists must



have been very keen on better wages and on Mr. Shackleton's motion to resent the closing of it! But we are afraid the natural construction here is not the right one. A little buzz of excitement in the Lobby just before midnight pointed to something quite different. The Opposition rank and file is so exemplary in its attendance just now that one might suppose that every Liberal M.P. hopes for office if his side comes in,

In the election in the S. Stephen's Green Division of Dublin Mr. Waldron polled 636 votes more than the Unionist candidate Mr. Matheson. He is returned as an "independent Nationalist", but we should say that Mr. John Redmond does not quite enjoy him. Mr. Waldron has declined to take the official Nationalist pledge. It is true that Mr. Redmond and other Nationalist leaders have hastened to support his candidature, and it is easy to understand that in certain important ways he is an addition to the party. He is just the sort of man, socially and financially, that Parnell favoured latterly. But Parnell saw to it that the man he supported obeyed him. Mr. Waldron will no doubt obey Mr. Redmond—whenever it suits Mr. Waldron. "I will support you in all popular measures you bring in", a loyal M.P. once said effusively to his leader—was the leader Melbourne? We forget at the moment. Mr. Waldron's line is a kind of variant of this—"I will support you in all you do, so long as I approve of it".

The defeat of the French Government on Monday, due no doubt in the final analysis to general loss of influence, was occasioned by a suggestive jumble of motives. M. Leygues' amendment, carried by a majority of eleven, excludes from the application of the Bill for the suppression of religious schools those institutions from which French missionaries are recruited. It may be inferred from the silence of some of the ministers that they felt the abolition of the privileges of such educational centres as send missionaries to the East to involve a surrender of a useful aid in foreign politics. One speaker was indiscreet enough to suggest that it was suicidal to abolish the schools in Cairo and Alexandria with their 5,000 pupils at a time when French and English interests in Egypt and Morocco were being balanced against each other in a treaty between the statesmen of both countries. The amendment was therefore carried without expostulation from the Ministry, which was not unwilling to make an exception to its alleged principle of the severance of politics and education where the political effect was to its own liking.

The repeal of paragraph 2 of the anti-Jesuit law has caused something of a storm in Germany; and Count von Bülow is accused of reactionary policy by every Protestant bigot in the country. In defending himself he is hampered by the impossibility of giving out the inner reasons which make the repeal, long advocated by broad-minded persons, of peculiar significance at the moment. The Pope spoke last week a vigorous condemnation of the rejection by the French Republic of "the idea of liberty and the laws of civilisation". Apart from any recent events in France he perhaps began with a certain hostility to his predecessor's benevolence to a republic; and it may be that his speech to the Cardinals was the warning of a definite and thoroughgoing reversal of policy. France is therefore in the contradictory position of claiming to be the tutelary guardian of Jesuits abroad while she is persecuting them at home. The opportunity thrown open to Germany of appropriating some of that influence which M. Combes' policy is losing for France was not likely to be lost by Count von Bülow, a politician who makes a profession of astute opportunism.

If on Thursday morning Sir Edward Grey read his own speech, delivered to the National Education Association, in juxtaposition with Mr. Evans' on the same subject on the same day, he must have felt that the contrast was unfortunate. Councillor Evans, Principal of the Presbyterian College at Carmarthen, showed some courageous honesty in telling the Town Council that it was both

dangerous and lawless not to carry out an Act of Parliament and after a debate, described as acrimonious, it was decided on his urgency to levy the rate necessary for carrying out the provisions of the Education Act. Sir Edward Grey, who one had hoped was above this sort of political opportunism, not content with urging upon the Education Association the absolute necessity of doing away with dual control, commended in the best style of political oratory the high-minded councils of Yorkshire and Wales, for their illegal resistance to the Act.

The collapse of Mr. Sully, the "cotton king", for which no one but his friends and victims will be sorry, illustrates in its wider aspects the necessity of freeing English trade from the menace of the millionaire. The aims and partial success of such American speculators will be harmless to bring distress into English trade if the Empire can be made self-sufficient, in the manner suggested by the Liverpool workmen who contributed a day's wages to encourage cotton growing in the colonies. The rapidity of the rise in price after the first collapse suggests that the world's supply is short; but in any case freedom of trade in any one country must be impossible while a man or a ring of men in another can control the world's supply of an essential product. There have been bigger failures than Mr. Sully's for £800,000. He is important not because of the magnitude of his failure but because of the proof which his partial success gave of the entire interference with the laws of demand and supply that the concentration of wealth and the dissoluteness of scruple may bring about.

The Law Society has had special honour done to it this week by the visit of the King and Queen to open the new wing of the Hall in Chancery Lane. We do not remember that the King has ever been accompanied by any ladies of the Royal Family when he has visited the Inns of Court; and this remark applies to the Prince of Wales who recently visited Lincoln's Inn, not long after the King had visited the Middle Temple. Their connexion with the solicitors is not so close as it is with the other branch of the profession. They are not members of the Law Society and cannot be. Even the King we suppose while he belongs to the Bar cannot be a solicitor; and it apparently has never occurred to a member of the Royal Family to recognise the improved status of the solicitors by becoming a member of their Society. The Society's Hall has no historic or other interesting associations. It is simply the business headquarters of the solicitors; but it is a comfortable club for London members; and its library if it does not contain much ancient literature is well equipped with modern useful books. In many other respects the Society guards the interests of its members better than the Inns of Court do those of the Bar.

Mr. Justice Kennedy's Presidential Address at the Birmingham Law Students' Society on the administration of the criminal law has attracted much attention in that city. He described the Concord and Elmira systems in the United States, where discharge is dependent on the results of a thorough physical educational and industrial training, and no prisoner is allowed to leave until a skilled occupation has been secured for him. The infliction of short sentences he is convinced is a cruelty and not a kindness; but both long and short sentences at present are expensive to society and utterly useless or deeply hurtful to the prisoner. The tendency in all prison reform now is to approach the American model. Mr. Justice Kennedy was far too eulogistic of other parts of our criminal law. We need better criminal magistrates and judges, and such matters as the treatment of untried prisoners are scandals. The preliminaries to trial need criticism as much as what happens after conviction.

There have been several remarkable actions for breach of promise of marriage recently; and they ought to furnish additional material for those who think that they should be abolished or at least greatly restricted. Many lawyers have testified from their

experience that for the most part they are only a legalised form of blackmail; and Lord Herschell supported a Bill for their abolition except in cases where direct pecuniary loss has been incurred. That is quite different from the solatium which is now given for what are supposed to be the sentimental injuries which the plaintiff has suffered. Why, when it is clear from a plaintiff's own story that she has escaped a disastrous marriage, she should be thought entitled to compensation for being so fortunate is not easy to understand. Yet juries are constantly giving most preposterous damages. It is clear that it is only the most vulgar of the vulgar who come into Court. That might be guessed beforehand; but when the story is told it always turns out to be a disgusting parody of any love story that calls for sympathy and respect. If the action is to be permitted it ought only to be, as it is in other countries, for damages quite unconnected with the feelings: and that would soon put an end to these sordid exhibitions.

In the House of Commons on Thursday Mr. Osmond Williams drew attention to "a Mr. Austin Dobson" who in addition to £250 a year from the Civil List drew his pension of £533 6s. 8d. from the Board of Trade. It appears, however, that the indefinite article had slipped in by accident. Can the Clerks at the Table—but, no, we would not deny them the credit common to educated English people of acquaintance with Mr. Dobson's delightful work. Mr. Williams seems to think that Mr. Dobson is too liberally treated. There he is wrong. The point is not that Mr. Dobson is too well treated, but rather that men who have toiled their lives out in English literature, and done good work, are overlooked by the State. Mr. Balfour rightly feels confident that he has acted well in regard to this particular case. Why does not Mr. Williams raise instead the case of a Mr. Brooks?

Sir Edwin Arnold, who died on Thursday at the age of seventy-two, kept up his journalistic energy in spite of his blindness till the very last; and he will be remembered in this sphere of his activity as a man who never made an enemy. By the larger public, if we except those who unconsciously absorbed the politics of his leading articles, he will be thought of as a man who won a sudden poetic fame which almost as suddenly died away. The "Light of Asia" was certainly widely read. It was marked by a sort of sensuous rhetoric which attracted many whom poetry would not attract. Sir Edwin's real acquaintance with the East added a savour of easy knowledge; and the versified commandments of Buddha a gratifying atmosphere of morality. It is a curious and an unhappy sign of literary development that two of the most popular writers of verse should have emerged from daily journalism. Sir Edwin Arnold was reckoned the best of the leader writers on the "Daily Telegraph", as Sir Alfred Austin was on the "Standard". In Japan Sir Edwin Arnold will be much mourned; and it is perhaps his best distinction that he has helped more than any other person to spread a sympathetic knowledge of Japanese life.

The Duke of Cambridge was buried with full military honours on Tuesday. After the service in the Abbey the long procession to Kensal Green gave large crowds an opportunity of showing the respect which the Duke's direct honesty of purpose had made universal; and there is to be found no more real tribute of respect than the utter silence of large crowds. At the mausoleum the ceremony was wholly military, impressive as the details of a soldier's funeral always are: the volleys fired over the grave, the intervals of solemn music; and for final tribute the bugles playing the "Last Post". The army mourned the last survivor of those who held important command in the Crimea; and from that time no one in high command has so held the affection of all ranks. His funeral ceremony has been compared to the Duke of Wellington's; but without going in search of extravagant parallels it is true to say that the Duke of Cambridge had the rare popularity which comes from that sort of directness of character which marked the Duke of Wellington.

#### THE SORROWS OF AH SIN.

IF it were possible for an Englishman, or indeed a ny-one not himself a Celestial, to penetrate behind the childlike and bland smile of a Chinese listener to our debates on Chinese labour, what a fascinating psychological study his mind would present. What would he be thinking of that political game "he did not understand"? What would be the exact value he would place on Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman and Mr. Asquith's chivalrous concern for his morals and his money? Would he trace just a suggestion of political interest in the fervid anxiety of the Opposition lest his childlike innocence should be over-reached and betrayed into accepting terms to his own disadvantage; lest in his simplicity he should be giving points to the other parties to the agreement? We imagine Ah Sin would smile on, and that his smile could be resolved mainly into two elements, admiration for the audacity of the attempted trick, and contempt for its clumsiness. It would not strike him that anyone who played the game, rather did not play the game, so indelicately could possibly help being found out, and found out too soon to make any of the "frightful" points he had himself secured before exposure in his famous deal with Bill Nye and Truthful James. But Ah Sin does not know the British electorate, who are absolute babes beside Nye and James. If he did he would smile more inscrutably than ever at the idea of his being worsted in a bargain with the Briton. And indeed if it were a question of making an impression on people who knew anything either of the facts of the South African situation, or of the Chinaman and his position, we should have heard nothing of any opposition in Parliament to the ordinance. The Opposition leaders would know very well that the hypocrisy would be seen through in a moment. They do, as it is, know quite well that nine out of ten members in either House, no matter on which side they sit, regard the case against Chinese labour as absolutely insincere, or, to put it in more colloquial phrase, as mere "bunkum". But Parliament is not the objective, Parliament is too well informed; the objective is the mass of electors, whose ignorance can be played on and prejudice appealed to. No doubt it is very good electioneering, in fact from the wirepuller's point of view it is quite a brilliant move. The average voter knows less than nothing of China and the Chinese and therefore is violently prejudiced against them. So to that side of him is presented the prospect, described as a certainty, of the whole of South Africa being overrun by Chinese, who are to drive all the white men into the sea. What is to become of the black men is not considered. But the elector also has a wholesome horror of the word slave; accordingly labour regulations imposed on the Chinaman expressly to prevent him overrunning the country—the other bogey—are roundly described as slavery, and the elector is stimulated by sensational pictures of Chinamen, brought over in slave dhows and sent to work in chains in the mines. The fact of the two bogeys being mutually destructive does not trouble the Radical wirepuller.

You can put into a single picture things that cannot co-exist; you can paint snowdrops and chrysanthemums flowering together; so the wirepuller tells the elector that innumerable galleyfuls of Chinese in irons are coming over to South Africa to overrun the land and drive out the white population; and the British voter, honest man, thinks that a very shocking and unpleasant prospect. It is not of much use to point out to him the untruthfulness of the picture. It catches his imagination, and the little critical faculty he has is satisfied with the admitted fact that it is proposed to bring Chinamen to work in South African mines, and that they will have to submit, if they volunteer for the work, to certain restrictions on their movements. An electioneering trick more likely to succeed at its first showing we cannot imagine. That such dishonesty is found out in the end is, of course, true, and this will be found out. It will very likely float the Radicals into office, and the reflux will certainly wash them out. They will come in and they will find that it is impossible for South Africa to do without Chinese labour, and they will neither send back the Chinese already there nor stop others coming. The story of the Irish Crimes Act of 1887



will be acted over again. The leaders of the Opposition were never tired of asserting that their first act on coming into power would be to repeal the Crimes Act. They came into office, and remained in office three years, and did not even attempt to repeal that Act. Apparently the electors remembered the Government's past professions in the next election, for they turned out Lord Rosebery's Government neck and crop as soon as they had the opportunity.

If politics really were nothing but the game so many politicians make of it, one need not take this Chinese labour move more seriously than any other, but, seeing how great a matter it is to the whole Empire, it is impossible not to deplore deeply that so many honourable gentlemen have not hesitated to make party capital out of deliberate and carefully planned dishonesty. It was perfectly open to the Opposition to resist this policy of Chinese labour for South Africa to the uttermost; they might resist on economic, on social, on moral grounds; and no one could find fault with them for doing so. They might even believe that injurious consequences under all these heads would follow from the adoption of such a policy. That would have been a fair and right issue to raise. But that is not the way they have set about it: not at all. No fair argument of the question would have moved the country: and they knew that. They therefore deliberately adopted two suggestions, of slavery and of the ousting of white men, which are not compatible with honesty. We are not surprised Mr. Asquith made so half-hearted a speech. It is impossible to imagine anything more different from the forceful, confident tone of his free-trade speeches than the mere professional advocacy of the speech with which he wound up the debate on Monday night. How did he deal with the suggestion of slavery? He would not quarrel with the Prime Minister about names! Names: he knew very well that names are everything in this matter. It is precisely the word slavery that counts. Keep the words slavery and slave out of all election speeches and "literature", and put in their place Mr. Asquith's word (*in Parliament*) "status" with a detailed description of the actual facts of the conditions laid down for Chinese labour, and hardly a single voter would be affected either way in any constituency. The Radical press appreciates that fact; it knows the value of the word slavery. Mr. Asquith shrinks from the word in the presence of his opponents in the House; will he shrink from it on the platform?

On the merits of the true issue the debates in the two Houses did not bring out much that was new. Generally throughout the discussion the Chinaman himself, paradoxical as it sounds, has been rather overlooked. Certain proverbial myths about him have done much service; but very few speakers have troubled to consider what factor in the matter the Chinaman as he is will make. We regret that so few of the very select number of Englishmen who know something of the Chinese people have given their views to the country. This is a commercial matter. Should not the China Association have something to say on it? It could give information, if it did not wish to be involved in the controversy. And the China League? But perhaps that is extinct. Mr. Lyttelton happily did devote a good deal of a very fine speech to the Chinese factor, which one feels should count at any rate for something in this question. The essential point of the Opposition case is that the Chinaman is a very ignorant and innocent person, and so peculiarly fit to be imposed on by the labour recruiter. To those who know our friend Ah Sin in his own country, such suggestions are merely amusing. The Chinaman in fact is particularly capable of looking after his own interests. He is educated and a freeman. He knows the value of freedom as well as any national, and to talk of his accepting a position in any sense akin to slavery is simply nonsense. He may, as might an Englishman, think his South African fortunes do not bear out the prospects put before him; that may happen to any emigrant. If that is the view of the first batch of Chinese, it will be the last batch. Their friends and relatives will soon learn that South Africa is "no good". Nor are the Chinese particularly immoral. In many ways the Chinese character will compare well with the European, we should

say, quite favourably with what we know as pioneers in a colony. We do not say there are no moral dangers; there cannot be an aggregation of human beings without moral danger. But if there were no question of regulating the circumstances of the Chinese immigrants, should we hear one word about moral danger? Our political moralists would cheerfully take their chance of the sins against morality which they knew perfectly well would be committed by more or less of the immigrants. There we have the hypocrisy of the whole agitation. If there were no attempt at regulation, no attempt at order, we should hear no complaints. Neither Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman nor Mr. Asquith would have anything to say if a mining community of the Bret Harte description were allowed to grow up unheeded in all its luxuriant lawlessness, the happy breeding-ground of seraphic blackguards with celestial eyes.

#### THE DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE AS COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

TO estimate rightly the Duke of Cambridge's record it must be remembered that his predecessor did all in his power to keep the army wholly under Royal control and out of the reach of Parliament. It was the gradual shifting of control to the political and parliamentary sphere which rendered the Duke's tenure of office so difficult and ultimately made the position of Commander-in-Chief as anomalous as it became under Lord Wolseley. Throughout his forty years' tenure of the office it was the Duke's invariable practice to move slowly and above all not to introduce any so-called reforms, however plausibly presented to him, without endeavouring to ascertain their probable results, taking into consideration the many and varying requirements of our army service. More especially was he adverse to anything which might affect the *esprit de corps* of our units which he rightly viewed as the very corner-stone of our past military successes and our one hope for the future. It was here that he was brought into sharp conflict with Lord Cardwell and to a lesser degree with Mr. Childers, and it is significant that for the rest of his life, despite his kindly and generous nature which never permitted him to cherish animosity, he never could speak with patience of the former Minister: nor did he cease to deplore the avoidable injuries which had from time to time been so gratuitously dealt to our army in carrying out sundry reforms.

The public is of course unaware of the identity of the originators of many of the changes in our army organisation and naturally enough ascribes the authorship to the Minister under whose orders they are effected. Thus the territorial system with its asserted advantages is usually placed to the credit of Mr. Childers. It is therefore not uninteresting to note that even before the Crimean War the matter was brought under discussion by the Duke long before he became Commander-in-Chief and was advocated by Mr. Pitt some fifty years earlier. Further, that the Duke, whilst approving of it for recruiting purposes, objected to the mixing of regiments and any action calculated to lower their *esprit de corps*. It was the reckless adoption of some of these very points in 1881, objected to by the Duke in 1853, that has been so recently condemned by the report of the Escher Committee in 1904. He was always slow to accept changes. Thus he was strongly opposed to the breaking up of the Royal Regiment of Artillery into separate branches, for reasons which hold weight to this day. It is at any rate significant that this as well as other changes which have been effected since he ceased to be Commander-in-Chief have already proved to be by no means unqualified blessings and that there are already signs that some will before long require revision: whilst in other instances it has already been found necessary to revert to the former procedure.

"It would never have happened in the time of the old Duke" is a saying that has constantly been on the lips of officers and men during the last few years. This was largely due to the feeling of confidence he inspired and to the belief that he understood and appreciated the feelings and aspirations of all ranks in our

army. How closely he kept himself in touch with all those under him will be understood from the following single example. During the forty years he was Commander-in-Chief it was his wish, a wish he duly enforced, that every general officer in independent command at all stations beyond the seas, in peace or in war, should regularly correspond with him, so as to keep him fully acquainted with all that was going on in his command. Thus the Commander-in-Chief in India wrote to the Duke regularly every fortnight, and at times oftener, whilst the generals commanding the presidencies and at all our foreign stations abroad did the same. Even Ireland was included in this category. To these letters the Duke invariably replied personally, from time to time, carefully entering into every question brought before him and giving his advice and opinion on all matters. Those who have received some of these letters will testify to the common sense and admirable fairness with which he dealt with innumerable difficult problems, many of which, but for his wise decisions, manly sense of justice and prompt action, would have afforded admirable material for "army scandals" as it has recently become the fashion to describe any act of folly committed by a young soldier.

As regards the course of our operations of war, the wide extent covered by this private correspondence may be best imagined by recalling that during his term as Commander-in-Chief he was in constant correspondence with the chiefs who conducted our wars of the Mutiny 1857-59, China 1860, Ashanti 1873, Afghanistan 1877-9, and Egypt and the Sudan 1882-86 besides a host of minor operations.

It has been said, it may be with some show of reason, that he continued to be Commander-in-Chief after he was too old. Even so, it is evident that he was prompted to remain by his intense loyalty to Queen Victoria and to what he honestly believed to be the best interests of the army and nation. He ever maintained that so long as there was a member of the Royal Family qualified to perform the functions of commanding the army it was to the advantage of the army that this member should occupy the post, since he would, from his position, be above all petty jealousies, parties or cliques and dispel the uneasy feeling engendered by favouritism among the military hierarchy. He was greatly alarmed at the tendency during the latter portion of his tenure of office to establish "rings" in the army and rightly viewed them as most prejudicial to the well-being and efficiency of the service. After his retirement, he frequently expressed his disapproval of this growing evil and in the last few years spoke strongly on the danger to the service should the army be commanded by an officer unacquainted with English ways and European affairs. "We want no cliques in our army. We are too small an army to be able to afford to have parties in it. We want but one army—the King's army—a good British army", was one of his favourite expressions.

That he viewed as his best and most probable successor H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught is now no secret. Since his retirement the Duke continued to take the closest and keenest interest in the army and it is noteworthy that he was ever most emphatic in contradicting the oft-repeated tale that he was opposed to his successor Lord Wolseley. He always declared that although at times they differed as to details or as to the advantages to be derived from hasty changes, he always found Lord Wolseley "a good soldier and a gentleman". The South African war, with its curiously prolonged struggle and numerous regrettable incidents, affected him greatly, whilst the many recent occasions when army scandals have been ventilated in the Press and led to unseemly and futile debates in Parliament caused him much pain and anxiety. "It would never have come to this in my time" was his favourite remark when some new so-called scandal was the topic. The old Duke will for many years occupy an affectionate place in the hearts of the officers and men who served under him. One and all they realised that in him they had a chief who set them a high example by his loyalty, his devotion to the Throne, by his fairmindedness, sympathy and solicitude for all who were placed under him.

#### THE COTTON FAILURE.

THE failure of Mr. Sully is not a solution of the cotton crisis, at any rate so far as Lancashire is concerned. This fact cannot be insisted upon too much, for optimism is as yet quite unjustified. If we only very cursorily examine the causes of his failure we shall see that it was at once inevitable and incidental to the tactics he pursued. There is a natural price corresponding to the equation of supply and demand. Mr. Sully, a professional cotton-buyer with little capital, realised, as others did, that there would probably be a shortage in the world's cotton crop, and persuaded financiers to back up his expectation with hard cash. Clever manipulation on the Stock Exchange at New Orleans and New York forced up prices beyond the point justified by the shortage. Mr. Sully is said to have been too ambitious and by dealing in other commodities besides cotton he weakened his hold on the cotton market. Differences with his fellow "bulls" in New Orleans precipitated matters and now Mr. Sully has succumbed to his foes. Estimates of his liabilities vary but despite his boasts it is most unlikely that he will trouble the market again.

Lancashire is said to have exulted in his downfall and such joy is pardonable, but premature if it means rejoicing at the end of the cotton famine. The cotton famine is not yet ended, and Mr. Sully's failure has not increased the available supply by one single bale. It is doubtful whether the price has really fallen in any appreciable degree. There are many reasons why it should not. Mr. Sully's creditors will not be eager to depress the value of cotton at present, and although there has been a momentary break in prices, Lancashire spinners need not hope for a return of the days when cotton was 3d. or 4d. a lb. There is nothing to be gained by refusing to see facts. The world is dependent upon the United States for its supply of raw cotton. The world's demand has increased and will increase still further. The American financier thoroughly understands the situation so far. Years ago when the world's demand was smaller, he used to seize on the opening offered by a defective crop. Some of the operators managed to make fortunes but others failed. Mr. Sully had his predecessors in Peter Labouisse in 1805, Steenstrauss in 1889 and Theodore Price in 1900. Few perhaps failed for the gigantic sum of £800,000 as Mr. Sully is said to have done, but the size of the latest failure should be an index to warn us of the danger. It is certain that others will follow in Mr. Sully's footsteps, just so long as the world gives the United States her present monopoly of the supply of raw cotton.

Every elector, nay, every person in the United Kingdom, is interested in this question, and Lancashire rightly demands help and sympathy from the Government as well as from the people. The actual situation is but faintly realised outside Lancashire, but our national pride ought to feel injured at the thought of a meeting such as that which had to be called last Tuesday, on the very eve of Mr. Sully's failure. A mass meeting of the cotton trade employers was called at Manchester by the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners, and it was resolved unanimously to recommend not only that the mills should continue to run short time, as they had done since the early part of January, but also that they should stop for a whole week at Easter. The stoppage was proposed, not because of any friction between masters and men, or of any failure of Lancashire's products to find a market, but simply because of the operations of Mr. Sully and his confederates across the Atlantic. Raw cotton was 3d. per pound dearer than at this time last year, and spinners simply could not produce yarn at a price at all corresponding to the normal value of the piece goods. Lancashire is not the only sufferer, for the spinners of the Vosges and in Normandy are working short time in sympathy. Mr. C. W. Macara, President of the Federation of Master Spinners, estimates the illegal pickings of the middlemen and brokers at £100,000,000, if the price of cotton does not fall appreciably before the year is ended. This sum represents the difference between the price paid by the spinner and the value received for the cotton by the planter. The £100,000,000



comes largely out of the pockets of the Lancashire artisans who are now glad to be able to work forty hours per week, perhaps soon to be reduced to thirty or less.

We can understand Lancashire's feverish outburst of joy at the latest development of the famine, but caution was never more necessary. The textile industry of Lancashire has received a heavy blow, and cannot endure a second year like 1903. Nothing certain is known of the true financial situation of some even of the larger firms, but it is clear that capital or profits lost already cannot be used to replace obsolete or obsolescent machinery, and yet without constantly improved machinery Lancashire cannot retain her hold on existing markets in the face of foreign, especially of American competition. Lancashire's present specific for her disease is indeed desperate. Working half-time is injurious both to masters and men, but in no other way can cotton be kept even at its present level of value. The danger is that beguiled by an unjustified optimism some of the firms may decide to run full time and so allow the price of the raw material to be forced up. It is idle to discuss the wisdom of the short-time policy, for no one, certainly not its authors, ever proposed it as being more than a palliative to baulk the plans of Mr. Sully and his friends. If Mr. Sully's failure should, as is unfortunately only too likely, cause the abandonment of this policy in a short time, Lancashire's situation will have simply changed for the worse. In a few weeks at the most we shall discover what is the real value of cotton when the market is undisturbed by extraordinary manipulations, and it will be as clear to all as it is now to the careful observer what Lancashire's only policy is.

Experts tell us that the American cotton crop will seldom in the future exceed 10,000,000 bales, and will annually deteriorate in quality if not in quantity. Planters tempted by high prices have sold all the best cotton and have been driven not only to cultivate inferior seeds but also to overwork the land. The result is seen in various diseases of the cotton plant and the consequent decrease of the yield. In the meantime the number of the world's spindles is yearly increasing and the demand for cotton goods is being developed by commercial enterprise in new countries. Not only will the United States become yearly less able to supply cotton even at the present high price, but the planters in the Southern States will not be able to meet the demand for the raw material by a sufficient supply of suitable cotton. The only way out of the difficulty is to develop fresh sources of supply, and this solution opens out various interesting possibilities for Lancashire's textile industry. Probably now there are few people who need to be converted to the advocacy of empire-grown cotton. Thanks to the splendid work of the British Cotton Growing Association, under the able leadership of Sir Alfred Jones, the question has ceased to be a party one, and finds support not only in Imperialists but also among such intelligent Radicals as Mr. Emmott, the senior member for Oldham. Promising cotton-fields are to be found in West Africa, Guiana, Australia, New Guinea and in countless other places in the Empire, and the very diversity of these possible sources of supply suggests the thought that once again England may find a means of advantage and increased prosperity in the very incident that threatened her with disaster.

Some economists advise a differentiation of industry in Lancashire as the true cure for the present distress. They point to the machine-shops of Manchester as a step in the right direction, but although partial relief may be obtained by the introduction of fresh industries, yet such a scheme would not solve the main problem. The fact is that Lancashire's staple trade already contains within itself the seeds of its salvation, and one result of Mr. Sully's schemes has been the construction of at least one mill destined solely to manufacture Egyptian cotton into yarn. Lancashire has always manufactured the better class yarns from Egyptian cotton, and her purchases will be further increased when the price of Egyptian has fallen in the near future—the certain effect of the damming of the Nile at Assouan. What Lancashire wants is not an increased

supply of American cotton, but an improved staple from other sources. As it is, Oldham spins and Blackburn weaves; perhaps it may not be too much to hope that we shall see the division of labour carried still further, so that one part of Lancashire or one set of manufacturers shall create fresh varieties of textiles from the new West African cotton while others use American, Australian or Egyptian as the case may be.

Only a decrease in demand or an increase of supply can permanently affect the price of cotton, and if Lancashire is to flourish once more the second must be brought about. Private individuals such as Sir Alfred Jones have done their share, and now it is for the Imperial Government to grant financial aid as well as moral support. Agricultural chemistry has made great strides of late, and it is idle now to maintain that serviceable staples cannot be raised outside the United States. If Mr. Sully's manipulations have taught us to leave the groove of custom and prejudice into which Lancashire in common with the rest of England was fast slipping, the losses we have endured may still be counted as gains, but delay is dangerous. The United States cannot supply Lancashire with her raw material at a price which will allow the profitable export of piece goods to that country or even to India or China, and any illusions Lancashire may still entertain on this score are simply an invitation to the next successor of Mr. Daniel T. Sully.

#### THE NATIONAL LABOUR POLICY.

THE debate in the House of Commons on wages in Government factories and shipyards must surely convince all who are not blindly prejudiced against trade unions that the proposal of Mr. John Burns is the one that promises a way out of the existing difficulty. All the speeches made in the course of the debate, those by Mr. Victor Cavendish and Mr. Balfour for the Government as well as others, accepted the principle of Mr. Shackleton's resolution. There is now no disputing the proposition that the wages paid in Government factories and shipyards should be not less than the standard rate of wages paid for similar work in other employments in the respective districts. What remains to be done is to discover a method which shall set up a definite standard of fairness so that the good intentions of the Government and the actual facts of its wages bill may be in correspondence. Mr. Burns' amendment would lay down the rule that such wages shall be those agreed upon by the Trade Union and Employers' Association for the locality in which the work is performed. Various ingenious difficulties were stated against the amendment by Mr. Balfour, and, though the resolution itself was accepted by the Government, both resolution and amendment were subsequently "talked out". Thus the matter remains in the position it was in before; and as long as there is no agreed standard for estimating what is meant by fair wages, all the Government's protestations and promises about being model employers remain too vague to be of use in settling the grievances which exist amongst Government employes. The real ground of the Government's opposition is the fear that they will be accused of submitting to the Trade Unions by those who object to Trade Unions being allowed any representative character or status at all. This objection is one which very many "benevolent employers of labour" have tried to justify themselves in formulating when disputes have arisen between them and their workpeople. In the course of events, and as they have more wisely considered the advantages of negotiating with organised bodies of workmen represented authoritatively by their leaders, they have entered into direct negotiations with them on wage questions, or have joined composite boards of employers and trade union representatives to whom wage rates are referred. It is comparatively rare now for employers to ignore and set themselves up in irreconcilable opposition to Trade Unions as Lord Penrhyn did. The Government cannot claim to be a "model" employer so long as it refuses to do what most of the largest and wealthiest employers of labour have already done.

One consideration ought to have weighed with

Mr. Balfour. The danger of Government employes using their votes in Parliamentary elections to return members who will vote for getting their wages increased has been dwelt upon as introducing a very undesirable element into politics. Municipalities have also found the same influences at work in their elections. Working men have been reproached with returning candidates who would vote in their interests, and candidates with bribing workmen to support their policy as a term of the bargain. Trade Unionists have been denounced for bringing their organisations to bear on securing trade-union terms in contracts and for the wages of employes. Everybody will agree that this is extremely undesirable; but it can only be prevented by doing what the London County Council and other municipalities have done. They have accepted the principle that the different classes of labour shall be paid according to trade-union rates in their districts. This settles the question, because these rates are fixed according to the value of labour in the open market as ascertained by arrangements between private employers and their workmen. The municipality no longer pretends to be governed solely by vague notions of benevolence; and it therefore escapes the imputation that its benevolence is actuated, as unregulated benevolence mostly is, by very doubtful motives. It is often said that by conceding trade-union rates an injustice is done to the ratepayer or the taxpayer who has to pay the extra cost. But unless trade-union wages are imagined to be fancy prices totally unqualified by anything like their market value, the argument seems to imply that the taxpayer or the ratepayer should not pay fair prices for the labour he employs. The presumption is that if employers and trade unions settle in consultation the rate of wages, as they do for the most part now, that is the price of labour in the market. If it is not, what can be desired but that one party should dictate terms to the other taking advantage of its necessities; and this lands us in the impossible conclusion that fair wages means bare subsistence wages.

There seems good reason to believe from the figures that were quoted in the debate that this is what actually does take place with many classes of Government employes. At Woolwich, Captain Norton said, some two thousand six hundred men were paid at the rate of twenty-one shillings a week for the work of engineers' labourers while for similar work Messrs. Armstrong at Newcastle and Messrs. Mather and Platt at Manchester paid twenty-two or twenty-three shillings a week, despite the fact that house rents in London were much higher than in the provinces. Why do local wages and salaries vary so much, if it is not because they must bear a certain relation to the expenses of the employes? Life can be kept up on what may be called starvation wages everywhere; but what is a reasonable standard must vary in different places; and there is no better test available than the arrangements made by trade unions with employers individually or in association. Mr. Balfour made a difficulty by suggesting that trade unions did not represent unskilled labour, and that the latter is unorganised and therefore a rule cannot be laid down. Skilled labour organisations however not only lay down a standard for their own members but the wages of unskilled labour depend largely on what that standard is. In the Government factories and workshops there is a scale of skilled to unskilled labour as regular as that existing outside; but, according to Mr. Sydney Buxton and Mr. Crooks, it happens that both classes are paid less than they are elsewhere. The trade-union rule of fair price for unskilled labour in Government employment would be what it obtains in the organised trades, where it is based on the scale established between itself and the skilled labour with which it is associated. If that test cannot be applied in any particular case, the Labour Department might be called on to ascertain a current rate as it does now in reporting on wages in different districts. Either plan would be more satisfactory than the arbitrary, even if benevolent, disposition of the Government.

## A JUDICIAL SELECTION.

### THE IRISH VICE-CHANCELLOR.

THE term of office of Ireland's first and last Vice-Chancellor has actually come to an end. The Right Hon. Hedges Eyre Chatterton put on "stuff" in the year when O'Connell was indicted; he was a junior mod. in the year when John Dillon—Smith O'Brien's John Dillon—was placed among the senior mods. of Trinity College, Dublin; he preceded in office Sullivan, Law and Morris. That he should have been still sitting in the Irish Court of Chancery last term is evidence how lightly lie the duties of an Irish Judge even upon the Nestors of the Bench. Yet the long delayed resignation had been often expected. The mutterings of the Bar and the censures of the politicians had for a decade and a half attempted to force the septuagenarian born two years before Navarino to resign. But he dwelt in an atmosphere of pure serene and was untroubled and was contented with the deference of his chief clerks which recompensed him for the absence of a wider appreciation. If he condescended to notice the grumblers or the critics, it was merely to add emphasis to some festive reappearance after a "rumoured resignation" by a new order to a robe or wig maker. Expectant successors have been gathered to their fathers. He withheld his resignation until he could have no successor; when a Government not merely pledged, but compelled by hard necessity, to retrenchment on the Irish law bill was in office, and his place was certain not to be filled. It was a characteristic expression of his brotherhood with the Bar. He had, however, earned a long enjoyment of the repose of the Vice-Chancellor's Court. He sat upon a bench where the presence of the lotus-eater or the octogenarian gives no great scandal and where the sympathy of an idle brother may be safely reckoned upon to eke out the tenure of failing powers. But he was not always so comfortable as he was in later years. By a misfortune exceptional in the experience of an Irish Judge his original incompetence was mercilessly exposed and satirised.

Few parliamentarians who, after some months' easy tenure of the Solicitor-Generalship and the representation of Trinity College Dublin, have found themselves judges have had to begin their serious studies under so severe a master as was Lord Justice Christian. He was a thorough lawyer and he had a gift of sarcasm that went incongruously with his name. The early decisions of the Vice-Chancellor gave him an opportunity for the play of all his gifts; and it was mercilessly used. The scenes in the Chancery Appeal Court became the food of the reporters and the delight of the junior Bar. Christian's criticisms on Mr. Chatterton's decisions were scathing, and delivered to an accompaniment of sneers and flouts and gestures that outstepped all limits of decorum. The education was bitter, but it was not wholly lost. The Vice-Chancellor became during the earlier period of his effectiveness an industrious Judge and an efficient administrator of the routine work of his Court; and his knowledge of the law improved though he never rose to eminence. But if his knowledge of law was improved, his good manners suffered under the rough drill. To the Bar he was persistently rude. The only compliment that can be paid his conduct in this respect is that it was courageously discourteous. If the junior could never count upon forbearance, the leaders of the Bar too were not seldom treated with equal brusqueness. He believed himself to be a Tory of the Eldon school, and was insistent on his opinions. All the changes that have transformed the Ireland of O'Connell and Ballingarry unto the Ireland of Mr. John Redmond and the co-operative creameries were utterly distasteful to him. Perhaps they were no less distasteful to others of his brethren; but they had the wisdom to doff their prejudices when they donned the ermine. He was a thoroughly good bigot, and regarded the Papist and the mere Irish as a colonial might the "natives". A jury was to him the incarnation of ignorance, prejudice, and injustice; and he refused whenever possible to have anything to do with such a superstition. The fact that in a country so preponderatingly Roman Catholic the Chancery Court has been inversely Protestant has



made most Irish Chancery Judges sensitively careful and liberal in dealing with questions involving religious issues. Irish Roman Catholics owe it to Protestant judges like the present Master of the Rolls that the penal clauses of the Emancipation Act, so far as they affect charities and the religious orders, have been read in a sense consonant with modern public policy. But the Vice-Chancellor never rose to that altitude of discriminating impartiality. The Catholic in religious cases avoided his Court when he could; and the litigant who had for an opponent one of the magnates of the land was no less studious to escape the unconscious bias of the Vice-Chancellor's early nineteenth century sympathies. In political trials he endeavoured to be fair; but some of the results of the endeavour were startling. One of his last noteworthy decisions was that a newspaper has the right to comment upon an action pending in the Chancery Court, even though the Court of Appeal had decided that it was a proper case for trial by jury in the newspaper's constituency.

It was amidst the glory of that declaration that he withdrew. The Bar, that he had so long snubbed and finally deprived of a place, proceeded in true Irish fashion to shower compliments upon him. The press was moved to panegyrics which the truly great judge usually escapes. But those interested in the administration of the law and in respect being paid to it rejoiced that a judicial career was over which had not added to the reputation of the Irish Bench or to the goodwill of a malcontent public, among whom reverence for law is much in need of cultivation.

#### LA ZAGALA.

I WENT once into the Cathedral of Burgos and paid to have the curtain drawn from before the figure of a most striking and realistic crucifix. Beside me stood a countryman dressed in his sheepskin coat, and with a blanket striped in brown and white over his shoulder; in his hand a staff. I saw him cross himself and fall upon his knees, whilst from his face ran drops of sweat. He gazed with the fixed eyes of faith, and as the curtain was whisked hurriedly across the crucifix, drawn by a bored, and yet merry-looking acolyte, he rose again and murmured "It is finished". Perhaps, with the interior vision, he had seen the crucifixion, and had felt and suffered with his Lord. Again, it may have been he had felt nothing, and been but hypnotised by gazing on the Christ. Into these mysteries of the human soul the thinking man looks with reluctance, if he is wise, for it may be that looking he may chance upon reflexions in his own, which may surprise him, in despite of faith. But I, more lucky than my shepherd, or perhaps less lucky, for again the matter is one of the perspective of the mind, can say that at a theatre last night, here in this wind-swept mud-brown village, capital that was of all the Spains, when the piece was over not only did I say regretfully (as did my shepherd) "It is finished", but I wanted it straight to begin again. And yet perhaps it would not have appealed to all your readers, for as far as I can see it had no moral precept to inculcate in the last act, after in the first three the actors like unlicensed bridegrooms all had run their course. Religion seems to have left as an inheritance to its half-sister chill morality, that in the last act of our lives all should be strictly done within the limits of its law. And thus it seems that we have merely, as is usual, changed one collar for another, but have remained essentially the self-same dogs. But I regret to say that in the theatre of which I write, at least as far as regards the comedy I saw, laws were made merely to be broken, and serve as counsels of perfection, but quietly and bitterly, just as in life itself, the story was unrolled.

In the bare theatre, devoid of accessories, and decorated but by the ingenious installation of electric light, decked out in toilets which apparently were made on purpose for trans-Pyrenean use, and with their coal-black hair set thick with specious-looking diamonds, sat hard-eyed ladies, with their full busts bulging beyond the fronts of boxes. All were full armed with fans, as if they had come to judge the world. Their ample charms made the small stature and the

somewhat mean appearance of their cavaliers look smaller and more mean than really was the case. But if the ladies in the boxes with their attendant men appeared as if they were but part and portion of a play in which they took the part of ladies and of gentlemen, the sovereign people in the gallery took the reproach away.

Well are they called in Spain the brazen folk (*gente del bronce*) and "los Morenos", for all were dark and many of them, through want of washing and with the glare of sun and burning of the fierce Castilian wind, shone bright as brass itself. Short and square-built with eyes that twinkled merrily, something between the twinkling of the eyes of jockeys and of monkeys, their faces shaved twice or three times a week and for the most part set in a stubble of black wire, their flat white hats from Cordoba or blue Basques caps formed as it were an aureole of rascalism.

Naturally knowing nothing on any subject under heaven they were critical of all. Actors and actresses, the piece, the theatre, the ladies in the stalls, the Government, all had their turn, and upon each and all they gave their absurd opinions, formed with much native quickness but without intelligence, just as a woman glancing at a horse sees at the first sight that it is a jade, but has no power to give her reasons words, or as a monkey looking at a nut, sees at the first glance that it is rotten at the heart.

In rows they sat as thick as gulls upon a rock, their cloaks thrown back, their thin brown fingers coloured orange at the tips from the eternal cigarette, the only fire of Vesta never extinguished in the Spains. Their women in the mass were handsome, strong and even harder-eyed than were their sisters in the stalls. Their hair piled up in masses upon their heads, or parted in the middle, half concealed their eyes, and the white powder daubed upon their cheeks dusted their foreheads, and encroached upon their heads, so that the face and hair melted together in a coat of white. At first sight one divined the realistic view, both of the stalls and gallery, and it was faithfully set forth upon the stage.

The hard white light, brown land and wind-swept hills, the meandering rivers dry in the summer and in the winter torrents, the mixture of the Arab with the Goth and Roman, the Carthaginian cross, and garnishing of gipsy and of Jew, have all contributed to the material point of view.

The authors of the play, descendants by the right divine of genius from the great unknown writer who evolved the curious masterpiece of choice Castilian known as "La Celestina", had set forth as in a spectro-scope the very pith and marrow of the life of Spain. Homelike, and biblical, and seasoned with the salt of Betica, it formed a southern complement to the plays of Ibsen in its simplicity and truth. In a huge sparsely furnished house, somewhere near Seville, lived an *hidalgo*, who must have been descended from the Ingenious Gentleman, he of the running greyhound, the bold ferret, and the horse who had more corners than had a real from the mint of Potosi. Tall, grey and upright, all his delight was in his horse and land, and all the world to him was full of people eager to do good, if they but got the chance. Withal no fool, in things that appertain to daily life. In speech and dress precise; sober in diet and for morality a bar of steel. His wife having died whilst on a journey, for some strange notion of saving pain to his two daughters, he had concealed her death.

With various excuses and a wealth of lying letters only to be excused to conscience by the idea of doing good, he kept the fraud alive. At last his eldest daughter married, and the younger went on a visit to her, leaving their father, lonely, with his servants and his horse. Still he wrote on, and always held out hopes of his dead wife's return. Into the Andalusian Eden glided all unawares the female snake.

She was a country girl, and her entry with her father, a stupid and yet humorous Andalusian clown, appeared quite natural, as she came to take a servant's place.

The solitary gentleman has a mania that all his servants in the evening shall come into the drawing-room and learn to read and write. This leads to

intimacy, and by degrees to love. But still the simple gentleman will not confess it even to himself. Then comes upon the scene a rough Asturian miller, one Polanco, whom in his loneliness the modern Quixote has invited to his house. He and his dog Veneno soon pervade the place, the latter sleeping on the hidalgo's bed, the former talking and laughing with the maids. One day he pinches the Zagala (the new maid), and then her master finds out what has been passing in his heart. He instantly boxes Polanco's ears, and turns him and his dog Veneno out of doors.

He goes, protesting that his expulsion leaves a bad taste in his mouth. Then come the hesitations of a man of feeling and of sense, described with humour and with pathos, and at last a secret marriage, and a brief interval of transient happiness. So one by one his servants leave him, some from jealousy of their old comrade, and others, as the old nurse who brought his children up, out of respect for the remembrance of his wife. As the old nurse goes out, carrying her bundle, Spanish fashion, in a towel, the soul of the Zagala for the first time wakes. Till then she had accepted, in the Eastern way, life, love and everything as fate. But then she suddenly starts into life, and screams impressively, "Go call her back". Then doubts assail her, and she thinks that she has been a traitor; but her old father enters, and her pride in her smart clothes and jewelry still, for the moment, all her qualms. Her father is astonished, smells her pocket-handkerchief, touches her laces timidly, and is delighted when she tells him "she is all lace inside". Then in the whimsical, half-stupid manner of his kind, he tells her, "I feel half ashamed to be your father", which she takes as he had meant it, for a compliment.

But in the village where the drama passes, news of the marriage soon had filtered out. None would believe it, and Polanco, with his dog, determines to deliver up himself a victim on the altar of his friendship, and to learn the truth. He comes, is well received and when he learns the truth is thunder-struck. Then comes the finest bit of human insight in the piece. In vain the poor hidalgo tries to make Polanco understand that he has tried to act, if foolishly, still like a Christian and a gentleman. By the inexorable logic of a commercial world, Polanco shows him that he has brought ruin upon himself and misery upon the daughters whom he loves, and probably upon the girl whom he has taken to his heart.

Indignantly he asks Polanco, "Would you not have acted in the same manner as I did?" and gets the answer "I—I should have acted in a very different way".

Just as they are about to quarrel, comes a letter from his daughter saying she and her husband have returned from Italy, and will be with him in an hour. It seems they think the mother is at home. Then for the first time all the significance of his action rises before his eyes. How can he meet his daughters, and present them instead of the long longed-for mother, a young servant girl. The Zagala overhears him, and is mad with terror, and threatens then and there to run away. The daughters come, and then taking the elder one aside, he tells her of his pious fraud and after tears obtains her pardon; but he knows that there can be no pardon for the next action that he must confess. Days pass, and by degrees the daughters slowly begin to feel all is not right. Then they ask for the nurse who brought them up, and hear she is at home living alone in a small cottage in a village near at hand. The eldest goes and sees her, learns the truth, and comes back heart-broken. Still though, she doubts, until by accident she sees her father kiss his wife. At last her love prevails, and she forgives her father, and agrees to take the younger sister off and keep the truth from her. They go, and the poor father is left desolate.

He naturally turns to his wife for comfort, misses her; grows uneasy; searches the house, the terrace; rushes out to the garden calling upon her name. You hear him in the orange grove, and from the eyes of the "brazen people" in the gallery real tears drop. They make their way through paint upon the faces of the ladies in the boxes and the stalls. The theatre suffers and weeps, as if each man and woman lived the agony

upon the stage. Then finally the poor hidalgo rushes back again, and in a moment, takes it in, and stands turned to a pillar of salt grief. Then cloaks are flung across the mouth, women tie highly coloured shawls under their chins, ladies throw furs about their powdered shoulders, and the audience, holding their handkerchiefs before their mouths, for it is good to take precautions in the subtle air, stream out into the night.

R. B. CUNNINGHAME GRAHAM.

#### THE PUZZLES OF PERSONALITY.\*

IF the phenomena of so-called spiritualism leave room for scepticism as to communication with disembodied humanity, they are at least very interesting as physiological or psychical data. As a religion spiritualism is in the position of other religions. Its evidences are sufficient for those whose temperament inclines them to sympathy with the special kind of facts it relies on: with others who have no tendency to believe they produce no effect but distrust. The question of intellect in itself seems to have little to do with it; and as for sincerity spiritualists need not be suspected more than other people. Mr. Wake Cook who writes as an advocate of spiritualism in the book mentioned below, and Mr. Podmore who is a complete disbeliever are each equally competent; and there are at least three men of the first scientific rank, Sir William Crookes Dr. Alfred Russell Wallace and Sir Oliver Lodge, who accept Mr. Cook's and not Mr. Podmore's explanations of the phenomena. The late Mr. Myers, one of Mr. Podmore's fellow-members of the Society for Psychical Research, is to be added to the list of believers in the reality of the alleged facts of spiritualism, and in the explanation which accounts for them as due to the control of human subjects by spirits, the possibility of communication with them, and their incursions into and manipulation of our world of material objects. The difficulty is to see any common ground for the two opponents unless it is that they are both materialists. Spirit in the meaning of spiritualists is a sublimation of the matter we are familiar with (or think we are) and all the more mysterious discoveries as to matter recently made, such as of the more active bodies, the atom with its electrons, and all the other things which modify our notions about "brute matter", appear to spiritualists to offer converging proofs of their doctrines. But this is precisely the difficulty. What you take for spirit demonstrations, says Mr. Podmore to the spiritualists, are only revelations of hitherto unexplained properties of the human subject or of the matter in which it is immersed; and the supposed intervention of spirits is an entirely gratuitous hypothesis. It is because we know so little of ourselves that we go outside for an explanation. Every scientific man knows that he makes errors if he relies on his own senses, and does not check his observations by measurements which eliminate as far as possible the "personal equation". The argument against spiritualistic phenomena is that scientific measurements and checks have not been taken; though Mr. Podmore thus accuses three spiritualists whose lives have been spent in investigations under the most rigorous conditions of science. One of the most striking facts of our personality is the facility with which our senses deceive us when we are brought into connexion with appearances with which we are not familiar. The conjurer has most of us at his own disposal; and Mr. Podmore sees in such phenomena as slate-writing, table-turning, so-called materialisation of objects and levitation, or floating in the air, merely conjuring tricks which depend partly on the manual skill of the "medium" and partly on his power to produce a kind of hypnotism over his circle. It must be confessed however that in many cases the supposed explanations are more difficult to accept than the alleged facts. In the case of levitation deposited to by the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, the Earl of Dunraven, and Captain Wynne, if they did not see Home float out of one window on a floor eighty feet above the ground

\* "Spiritualism." By E. Wake Cook and Frank Podmore. London: Isbister, 1903. 2s. 6d. net.

"Multiple Personality." A paper by Albert Wilson, M.D., read before the Society for Psychical Research.



"into the window of the room where the three sat" on the same level, their self-deception, or Home's power of inducing it, is as wonderful as the real levitation would be.

When all the fraud and the possible self-deception are eliminated, there remain clairvoyance and telepathy which apparently spiritualists and materialists can alike accept as facts. Without in the least degree knowing how the facts are to be explained, the anti-spiritualist asserts that the explanation, whenever it comes, will be found in the four corners, as one might say, of the human subject, and the clairvoyant's knowledge of the present and past of the sitter is derived from the latent or conscious knowledge of the sitter himself. The spiritualist already has his gnosis of the spirit world; and we unfortunately cannot depend on the seer or clairvoyant's own explanation. He, or she, for it is remarkable how women have always taken the lead in the practice of the abnormal, may honestly believe that he is controlled by spirits; but unless we ourselves have already adopted this explanation we shall hesitate to believe that account of the power. Every artist, as we know, is a most unsatisfactory exponent of his own inspiration. Swedenborg, the father of modern spiritualism, though his adherents disapprove of the attempt to enter into communication with spirits, was a clairvoyant. Kant at first believed and then doubted his power. Mr. Podmore does not doubt it: though he would not believe for a moment in the supernatural claims of the greatest of all mediums, if Swedenborg's published accounts of the other world are true, as they are taken to be by his professed followers, an admirable body of high-minded and more than ordinarily intelligent persons. Nor is it the least of the puzzles of this curious subject that the spiritualists appear to take as the gospel of the higher spiritual truth the teachings of a youth of twenty-two, the undoubtedly extraordinary Andrew Jackson Davis, "the Poughkeepsie Seer", who dictated in hypnotic trance "Nature's Divine Revelations". We may take Mr. Podmore's remarks as not being likely to exaggerate the merits of this production. "It is certainly a very remarkable production for an uneducated shoemaker's apprentice." There are striking and valuable ideas in the book: the language is passably eloquent, or perhaps rather grandiloquent at its best, and degenerates at its lowest into a mere barbaric jargon. The explanation offered is that the youth had ideas and some share of imagination, "and that his memory stimulated by the conditions of the trance to prodigious activity enabled him to retain and pour forth an undigested mass of all that he had read of the writings of Swedenborg, Fourier, Brisbane and the popular geologists and evolutionists of his time"; that being about 1848. The *Zeitgeist* accounts for it all; and if any of us were in trance we should do ourselves more justice than we usually do because certain restrictions would be removed. We should cease to be self-conscious, we should not be restrained by social conventions and artificial differences. We should let ourselves go; and let us hope that not in every case should we pour forth "an unending river of more or less turbid rhetoric" in consequence. But it is too flattering to be told by Mr. Wake Cook that this display of faculty by the spirit of an uneducated young man shows what a transcendent genius there is in each of us. If every one of us is a potential Shakespeare, Newton, Plato, or Beethoven, we seem reduced all to the same level; and that hardly agrees with Swedenborg's hierarchic conception of the other world which spiritualists are bound to take into consideration.

But what is the real ego—the personality? In the paper read at the Psychical Research Society a few days ago Dr. Wilson narrated what he called a case of "Multiple Personality". Mary Barnes is a girl of about eighteen years of age now, but besides the Mary Barnes recognisable up to the age of about thirteen, there have been some nine or ten stages of personality in which there has been a loss of identity first with one stage and then of another; and each stage has presented to observers a range of memory, tastes, faculties, and emotions which seemed to have no relation to the others. This case is not to be classed in the ordinary categories of insanity. Many of the mani-

festations disclose the possession of abnormal power not possessed in other stages of the personality: and are like those relied on by spiritualists as testifying to the control of spirits. At one time, long before modern spiritualism, it would undoubtedly have been considered a case of demonic possession. There are many similar instances known. Mr. Podmore mentions a man Louis Vivé who a few years ago in a Paris hospital went through six different phases of personality "each endowed with a different range of memory and consciousness". The explanation given, outside spiritist circles at least, is physical or nervous. "Professor Janet has demonstrated that enlargements and contractions of the sensory basis accompany the bewildering manifestations of alternating memories and identities in his Lucies and Leonies". Dr. Wilson calls in aid contractions or spasms of arteries supplying blood to the different functional sense or motor areas of the brain; which amounts to the same thing. Further a discovery of Dr. S. A. Watson (referred to by Dr. Wilson as not yet generally known) reveals that while the areas on the surface are so mapped out, there are deeper layers more ancient and primitive and more fully represented in the lower animals. If anything poisons or interferes in any way with the nutrition of any of these areas we may have different manifestations of personality. The injury of a higher area brings out the activities of the lower and their co-ordination is lost. We may put it that the resultant between the good and the evil, which represents the ordinary man, gives place to the unrestrained action of an area which is closer to the animal. In Mary Barnes' case it was supposed that the influenza toxin accounted for the disorganisation. But there was a strangely contradictory series of mental characteristics. If she became animal-like sometimes and was for long imbecile and blind, she could nevertheless perform wonderful feats of drawing, for example, which she was totally unable to do in other states. Extraordinary reproductions of drawings done in a condition of blindness, when she was guided both as to form and colour only by the touch, were shown to the audience. Omitting further details and turning to theory, Dr. Wilson supposes that the mind or character, the ego, is composed of several minor egos good and bad; the minor egos being subject to the laws of health, heredity and environment and hence vary in accordance with them. Irresponsibility moral and legal begins when the nexus of the minor egos is broken. Responsibility implies health, and hence society is decreeing injustice when it demands it from defectives and degenerates. It is society which is responsible if it permits conditions fatal to the health of the "egos" amongst large classes of the people.

#### BEETHOVEN'S ART.

A LITTLE while ago a large quantity of recent English music was sent me and I made a most careful examination of it. The principal works were by Coleridge Taylor and Elgar—the "Atonement", the "Apostles" and so forth. Apart from the merits of each particular work, one quality they had in common struck me—a frightful laxness of expression. Recently I heard Vincent d'Indy's "L'Etranger", and there I found the same unadmirable quality—looseness of musical phraseology. Now here you have three earnest and very sincere musicians all writing music which is no better than the commonest music-hall stuff of the day, in fact inferior to it in many respects. The music-hall stuff has at any rate liveliness, vigour, and if it is vulgar it is at any rate definitely vulgar. But the serious music of the day has nothing definite in it: the composers would seem to have shrunk back in fear of becoming definite. The music they give to one personage is exactly the same as the music given to all the others; their mournful music is not distinguishable from their joyful. In fact the 'stuff' lacks character and colour of all but the most superficial sorts. Writing elsewhere some time ago I called attention to this loose use of musical language, and practically asked the composers what on earth they would be at. Do they desire simply to cover so many sheets of music-

paper, to write down series of more or less pretty effects which will occupy a certain time in the opera-house or concert-room, or do they really imagine for a moment that phrases so lightly charged with colour and energy, with meaning, can hope to get any grip upon musical mankind? They seem not to realise the immense and definite purpose necessary to write so much as a single fine song. In that former article of which I have spoken I traced this slack kind of music to a wrong understanding of Wagner and to the symphonic poem. In the symphonic poem the necessity of telling or at least illustrating a stupid story is the excuse for music lacking in sinew, pungency and beauty, and musical exigencies are the excuse for the common inanities of the story. As the music is not expected to explain itself—as for instance the Fifth symphony of Beethoven explains itself by communicating certain very powerful and, so to speak, clean-cut moods—it would appear that the composers jot down the first strings of notes that occur to them and label them according to fancy. No attempt is made at vividness, no search is made after absolute truth of expression. This sort of thing does not at all interest me: I am bored while it is going on and happy when it is finished, as when one has to listen to a glib, dull and pointless orator. In cantatas, oratorios and operas one sees the result of Wagner as misunderstood. Earlier opera-writers had dealt with each scene separately, each had its own emotion, colour, atmosphere; and Mozart and Beethoven, for example, paid the greatest attention to exactitude of expression in every phrase, every bar. Their details are absolutely perfect. But Wagner worked on a bigger scale; he sought to sustain a particular atmosphere throughout a whole long act and within that atmosphere to define as accurately as possible his personages and their feelings. That is to say each phrase had to act in two ways: it had to contribute to the general atmosphere and it had to utter the precise emotion of the moment. There had often to be a compromise, detail had often to be neglected. Now come along the younger men of to-day and imitate just what is the defect of Wagner's method—if defect it can be called, being as it is the only means by which Wagner could attain his end.

Whatever the cause, there exists this all-pervading habit of loose expression, a habit fatal to the production of music that will live for more than twenty minutes. If I were to criticise Vincent d'Indy's opera, it would only be to repeat what I wrote of "Fervaal" in 1898. An endless stream of notes flows monotonously on, without differentiation for the different characters. It so jaded and wearied me that I did what I seldom do—left before the end. Elgar I have criticised before and shall have occasion to criticise again when I have heard "The Apostles". As for Coleridge Taylor, his is student's music. It is stamped "Made in London". Nearly twenty years ago Hamish MacCunn and Edmondstone Duncan were writing in much the same manner, only they did it better. "I am free to confess" that I am prejudiced against any setting of Longfellow's tiresome "Hiawatha". Excepting for one or two scenes—such as the advent of Famine and Fever in "The Death of Minnehaha"—the subject does not seem to me interesting. The versification, with its tiresome, unmelodious clatter, does not make for poetry or poetic effect—

"Why such rubbish should be written  
Is for me a complete puzzle."

It is precisely this ugly rhythm that Mr. Taylor emphasises. One cannot say that it recurs—it simply scarcely ever ceases. There is one effect which recurs—recurs until one is bound to explode in laughter. It may be remembered that Wagner in his boyhood wrote an orchestral piece in which the big drum went off with a bang—at every fourth bar, I think. Now the students of the Royal College and Royal Academy are all trained to indulge in an analogous device; but, as might be expected, they rob that device of any character or point it may originally have possessed, even if it was ridiculous. Mr. Taylor, for instance, gives us a few bars of chorus, then a few bars of orchestra; and this is continued until one laughs as did the

orchestra when they played Wagner's overture. These are swallow flights of song, with a vengeance; and the swallow's wings are broken: he can neither rise to any height nor continue for any length of time. Most of these students do exactly the same even in setting a simple song. Their professors do not tell them—probably because the professors do not know—that above all things it is necessary for a piece of music to maintain an unbroken flow. Even when it appears to stop—as it frequently does in say the Fifth symphony—there is no real stop: the next phrase swings in naturally, inevitably. This is quite a different matter from the scrappiness of Coleridge Taylor and the others. In the one case the music sweeps on from climax to climax; in the other it never gets "no furrader". However, this is only one undesirable virtue of Mr. Taylor's music; another, its vague inexpressiveness, with most of the music written to-day. Why he should be considered just the man to set scenes from "Hiawatha" I don't know; for whatever blood he may have in his veins he most certainly is not a Red Indian.

"All this sky-blue Indian nonsense  
Ought not to be set to music,"

but if it is set, human passion, human emotion in presence of things terrible and frightening, ought not to be left out.

Wagner said of some of his composing contemporaries that they reminded him of the old general who sang everything to the Dessauer march—whether meant to be sad or gay their music was always the same. This is to a certain extent true of Mr. Elgar, and it is wholly true of Mr. Taylor and Mr. Vincent d'Indy. To them, and to others like them, I recommend a study of Mr. Shedlock's *Life of Beethoven*, recently published by Messrs. Bell. Mr. Shedlock has taken the trouble to show exactly how and why Beethoven is the Beethoven we all know. As if inspired by his subject he patiently, laboriously and with perfect clearness reveals Beethoven's method of working at his themes, at every bar of his music, until it was charged with precisely the meaning he intended to put into it, and nothing more. He took a story—out of his own life, the life of a friend, a play of Goethe or Shakespeare—and he laboured, eternally altering and improving, until at last every phrase expressed just the emotions he himself felt. The evolution of his themes, as revealed in the sketch-books, show how passionately and patiently he worked at this. There is the art of Beethoven: he set truth of expression above everything, continuing the work begun by Mozart. On his death-bed he read the works of Handel. "There", he said, "there is truth". When an operation was performed on him he watched the stream of water running away. "Better from the belly than the pen" he remarked. It was the thought always in his mind—never to write a note he did not mean. And if a gigantic musical genius like Beethoven could take such pains, surely the lesser men of to-day might imitate him and strive to free their music from the charge of emptiness.

JOHN F. RUNCIMAN.

#### MR. ALEXANDER'S COUP.

DURING the past week England has had one hero:—Mr. George Alexander. Like a water-spout from a smooth ocean, there has shot vertically up into the empyrean a sudden column of marble, with Mr. Alexander (blushing, doubtless; but I have no telescope) upon its capital, and with John Bull and Britannia labouring under strongest emotion around its plinth. Up, and ever up, flies the beaver of John Bull; down, and ever down, fall the tears of gentle Britannia; both these worthies feeling that there can be nothing much the matter with a world in which so brave and good a man as Mr. Alexander came to birth. A stranger from some less blest planet might ask what exactly Mr. Alexander had been doing—had he saved the State? had he endowed a national theatre? had he . . . No, stranger; you will never guess the undying deed of derring-do that has sent us and our newspapers rightly mad with wonder and adulation. Listen! Hold on to something, in case you should fall



down. Now! On Thursday, 17 March, Mr. Alexander produced, at the S. James' Theatre, King Street, S. James', S.W., a play entitled "Love's Carnival", being an English version of Otto Erich Hartleben's play entitled "Rosenmontag". On Saturday, 19 March (steady, lad, steady!) Mr. Alexander withdrew the production.

At first sight, this great renouncement seems all the more grandly brave for that it is somewhat un-English. The Englishman never knows when he is beaten. Who first made this remark I cannot trace. Evidently, he was some sneering foreigner. But the Englishman never knows when he is being sneered at. It is an idiosyncrasy in him to take every sneer as a more or less obvious compliment. "A hypocrite? Well," he smiles, "I grant them I have the appearance of virtue, and so must seem hypocritical to them. But why should I dissemble my virtue? I am not ashamed of it." "Perfidious? I am certainly far-seeing—devilish subtle and diplomatic, as they know to their cost." "A shopkeeper? I have a genius for finance." "A glutton? None of your kickshaws for me." "Intemperate? There is no beer like British beer, and no whisky like Scotch." "A snob? I have, it is true, a sense of proportion in social as in all other matters." "Gloomy? I am, thank Heaven, no fribble." In like manner, incapacity to realise defeat is attributed by the Englishman to strength of character, not to anything in the way of stupidity, and seems to him a very admirable thing indeed. Thus, one would expect him rather to despise the acumen of Mr. Alexander. But here one must take into reckoning another of his idiosyncrasies. He loves, above all things, a failure. Mr. Cunningham Graham, not long ago, wrote a beautiful essay in praise of failure; and people thought this a very eccentric thing to have done, for they regard Mr. Graham as a generally eccentric man, and they always do refer everything that a man says or writes to their general notion of him. As a matter of fact, Mr. Graham was only expressing a sentiment in which the whole of England is steeped through and through. In England nothing so endears a man to his fellows as a good, straightforward, downright, deadly failure. In the South African war, the General who was acclaimed with the truest enthusiasm was he who seemed to have fallen most signally short. How different from any other country in Europe, where the unsuccessful General is hounded down as a malefactor! This preference is, perhaps, a rather loveable trait in Englishmen. Or it may be merely an offshoot of egoism and envy—preference for men who do not rise above the common level of mediocrity. Anyhow, there the feeling is. And on it Mr. Alexander has gone nap. He produced a play that was not very favourably received (few plays are) on the first night. And forthwith he snatched the opportunity of saddling himself with a fiasco. It was the stroke of a master-mind. And I offer to Mr. Alexander my heartiest congratulations on his cleverness, not in knowing when he is beaten, but in pretending to be beaten when he isn't. For, as he confessed (rather indiscreetly) to the representative of a daily paper, he might easily have run the play to good business for at least six weeks. But he knew a trick worth two of that, and off the play came ingloriously. Gloriously, before the eyes of a public whose delight at having been so quickly deferred to is outdone by their joy in a man who has failed so signally, and by their admiration for his marvellous courage and his sweet humility in confessing himself crushed. In the general uproar, I pause to shed a tear over poor Herr Otto Erich Martleben, who might, but for Mr. Alexander's happy thought, have been going to draw pleasant fees "for at least six weeks". I hope he will have enough pride to return the miserable three-night cheque which Mr. Alexander will have posted to him.

From time to time, one hears dark hints of "organised opposition" on first nights. I wonder if Mr. Alexander himself, the other night, had—no, it would have been unnecessary. You can always count on a fairly hostile demonstration against a play that ends sadly. And "Love's Carnival" had not merely a sad ending: it was tedious throughout. My belief in the skill of Mr. Alexander, as manager, does, however, drive me to the conclusion that the withdrawal of the play was not a

sudden happy thought, but an end for which he had been secretly working. Such is his skill in management that he could not possibly have expected a real success for "Love's Carnival". "Six weeks", perhaps, it might have had; but not more than that—not enough to have induced him, in the ordinary course of business, to try it on. Had success been his objective, he would not have followed "Old Heidelberg" with a play of exactly the same local colour. German uniforms and German beer would have had a well-earned rest. Nor was "Love's Carnival" a play which could, like "Old Heidelberg", be transplanted without becoming unintelligible. The persons of it were not persons behaving in generally human way. So far as they were real at all, they were but locally real. Except under the code of the German army, persons do not behave as they did. (What a pleasant sensation it is to be writing of a dull play, for once, in the past tense!) And the British public knows nothing about that code, and cannot make allowances for its effect. Thus the play was bound to seem unreal to the British public. Even to German residents in England it was bound to seem unreal, for another reason. The plot of it was just that which even our worst novelettists have outgrown. A youth loved, and was loved, truly. Both he and she were poor. Well-meaning wicked people determined to part them, and told each that the other was faithless, and each believed the horrid tale, and never dreamed of asking the other whether there was anything in it. Long time they were parted. At length they met again, and were very glad to find that it had been all a mistake; and the joy-bells—no, there the "Family Herald" collided with the German military code, and was smashed up: Edwin and Angelina—I mean Hans and Else—did not go to church, but to a joint suicide's grave. You see, now, that Mr. Alexander can neither have expected a great commercial success nor have been impelled to a forlorn hope by enthusiasm for the play as a work of art. Was there, you venture to suggest, an irresistible part for Mr. Alexander? No. Mr. Alexander could have easily resisted Hans. Hans was simply a dehumanised version of the part he had been playing for many months. He must have known that, as Hans, he would easily be resisted by the public. And as though to make assurance doubly sure, he even withheld from Hans the outward charm that Hans demanded. A tremor ran through the house, and afar one seemed to hear a thousand and one picture post-cards rustling in vehement protest, when Mr. Alexander made his bow to the audience, wearing a wig that was evidently a mat of oakum woven by a convict. I protest, on grounds of political economy. What is to become of Mr. William Clarkson, and those other artists who have worked so long and honourably, if our actors are going to patronise prison-made goods? However, I don't want to be an alarmist. I recognise that this wig is not likely to create a wide precedent. It was an "ad hoc" wig; a wig to ensure the play's failure; a wrecker's wig. And Mr. Alexander will not wear it again, till, in the distant future, he decides that the popularity of his theatre is waning by reason of invariable success, and that the time is ripe for him to taste again those intoxicating sweets of failure which he procured for himself in the memorable month of March 1904.

MAX BEERBOHM.

#### THE CITY.

THE feature of the past week in high finance has been the issue of £5,000,000 2½ per cent. stock under the Irish Land Act. At the issue price of 87 per cent. it is not surprising that the Loan was oversubscribed about twelve times and we understand that a considerable number of transfers have taken place from Consols into the new stock which yields about £3 3s. per cent. with of course equal security. The provision made by the Bank to enable the bona-fide investor to obtain direct benefit on his application is very commendable and the result is seen in the preferential allotment received by those applicants willing to pay in full immediately. The authorities are well advised to proceed cautiously in the introduction of changes in procedure,

but there are doubtless many small investors who would be inconvenienced to provide the whole of the purchase money at short notice, and we suggest that it may be found possible in the future to assist this class of investor by accepting his application endorsed by a banker or by a firm of stockbrokers of standing as a guarantee that the application is in respect of an investment. The Bank of England is again to be congratulated on the promptitude with which the deposit moneys were returned after the lists were closed—a matter of considerable importance at the present time when the payments on account of revenue absorb so much of the market funds.

The American market has had an eventful week, and has well sustained its reputation for sudden and, we may add, unreasoning, movements in prices. The collapse of Mr. Sully in the cotton market did not result in any sustained heavy fall in the price of cotton and to a certain extent this bears out his contention that the high prices have not been the result so much from speculation in a "bull" movement as from an increased demand and short supply of the commodity. The failure has not apparently adversely affected other markets in America, and the statement that no further actions would be taken under the Sherman Act together with the announcement of the distribution of the assets of the Northern Securities Company was the signal for a general rise in railroad stocks, more especially Unions Southern Pacifics and Atchisons.

The South African mining market still struggles against an adverse fate, and the law of averages alone would tempt one to believe that its tale of misfortune is well nigh complete. The improvement in prices, which would doubtless have taken place after the division in the House of Commons on the vote of censure, was checked by the announcement of outbreak of plague at Johannesburg. It is true that the scourge has not penetrated to the Kaffir compounds at the mines and the prompt action taken by the authorities is reassuring, but we think a mistake has been made in not accepting the services of Professor Simpson. The knowledge that a specialist of such authority and experience was engaged in directing operations would have been comforting to Europeans and natives alike, for his services at Cape Town during the recent outbreak are well known throughout South Africa. However the market has been comparatively steady and in certain specialities there has been an improvement, Transvaal Estates and Development shares referred to by us in last week's issue having been specially good in consequence of further cable advices that the "blue ground" continues at 200 feet, the depth now reached.

To those who are inclined for something with greater possibilities than can be derived from an investment in the outcrop and first row deep levels of the Central Rand, the work now being quietly carried out in the Eastern and Western portions may be studied with advantage. The theories consistently advocated by Dr. Hatch appear to be borne out by the latest advices of the result of the borings by the Western Rand Estates Company on their farm Gemboksfontein. The shares, which are well held, have maintained a steady position at about 1½ for some time past and should not be lost sight of with any renewal of activity in the general market.

#### INSURANCE "FOR THE IGNORANT".\*

BY THE IGNORANT.

INSURANCE, and especially Life assurance as practised in this country, is conducted with such scrupulous integrity and fairness that it is necessary to make a protest against a book by Mr. A. J. Wilson which has just been published. He tells us that "it is written by an outsider mainly for the ignorant". Such a work might be quite useful if the author were acquainted with the subject and if the ignorant would take the trouble to read it. The prevailing note of the book is indiscriminate denunciation. Referring to an office which gives a surrender value that the author considers inadequate he calls its conduct "little

better than highway robbery"; but then the author arrives at his ideas of surrender values by estimating that the average cost of insurance protection is 10 per cent. of the average annual premium, and that the balance, after deduction of expenses, should be accumulated at compound interest and returned to the policy-holder. The actual net cost of insurance protection is much more nearly 50 per cent. than 10 per cent., which makes a vast difference in the amounts that can be paid for surrender.

Probably the ignorant reader, for whom the book is intended, will only be able to gather from it two definite expressions of opinion; one is that you must take your policy with an office whose head office is in the United Kingdom, and the other is to avoid any company which spends more than 16 per cent. of the premium income for commission and expenses. These maxims illustrate the folly of laying down hard and fast rules for guidance in such a matter. The first would preclude an annuitant from obtaining the best terms compatible with perfect security, and the second would keep a policy-holder from effecting assurance with two of the best British offices whose policies give unsurpassed, and in some cases unequalled, results. The author admits that the cost of new business ought to be taken into account in estimating the expenditure of a Life office but he fails to say how this can be done, or to mention that the results of doing so are given in Whitaker's Almanack and elsewhere. In some conspicuous cases the extent of the new business entirely nullifies the author's second maxim.

The fact is the author is entirely unacquainted with both the theory and the practice of Life assurance. He has for instance heard the word "loading", and refers to it as the proportion of premiums absorbed in commission and expenses, instead of the proportion set aside for future expenses and profits, with the result that he entirely misunderstands the working of an important source of surplus. He has much to say about Endowment Assurance policies, under which the sum assured is paid on the attainment of a given age, or at death if prior. He calls these policies endowments, and describes them as such, since he makes no mention of the sum assured being payable at death should it occur before the agreed age. The only place in which they are approximately correctly described is in a chapter supplied by a friend when the author was "doubtful as to my [his] ability to set forth all the facts".

No mention is made of Life assurance by limited premiums, under which the sum assured is payable only at death. The important Discounted Bonus system is quite erroneously described, and even when wandering into insurance history he makes such mistakes as saying that the Amicable was taken over by the Hand-in-Hand. But perhaps the most objectionable feature of the book is the unqualified abuse. Charging an extra premium for invalid lives is described as "a heavy annual robbery": industrial insurance companies are said to "trade upon the complete ignorance of their victims". Being ignorant of recent developments in America he classes Fraternal insurance with Assessment insurance, calling them both "pure delusions". When he says that "alien offices may be said to live by robbing the poor" because of the small surrender values which they give he is evidently referring to the American companies, whose terms for surrender have for many years past been on an exceptionally liberal scale, and are given in detail on every policy.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

##### AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Seattle, Washington, 19 February, 1904.

SIR,—In this far corner of the world the home papers have a double welcome and interest, but I think that your criticism of America and the Americans is sometimes harsh and unjust. Let me premise that I have no patience with some of your contemporaries who are afflicted with the "cacœthes Americanendi". Americans are not almighty and infallible, and the deifying process is a source of jest to them and of shame to all true Britons. It would be unfair to judge

\* "The Business of Insurance." By A. J. Wilson. London: Methuen. 1904. 2s. 6d.



the British nation by, say, the Irish members, it is equally unfair to stigmatise the American nation on account of a few insignificant, but noisy, demagogues, who certainly do not represent feeling here.

America is a business nation and does conduct her national affairs on a business footing, so does England. Take the Alaskan question, of which so much is heard. In this city, being more directly interested, feeling ran higher than in any other part of the States, and yet I failed to see anything unreasonable in the attitude. The common argument ran thus:—The title is obscure, our claim is at any rate as good as the British claim, we have occupied and administered the territory for years and would in all probability have continued to do so unmolested but for the value our labour proved to exist in a land previously considered worthless. We will not give up the fruit of our labour. Had the positions been reversed, and had England failed to have pursued her claim with an equal ardour, all her sons would have been ashamed of her. If America "fails to make good" she "takes her medicine", England used to do so, I hope she is not going to fall away.

Sentiment, however, is by no means lacking, and there is a very real and solid friendship felt throughout America for the British nation, and individuals see instances of it daily. For instance, last week I attended the usual entertainment in the Grand Opera House and in the course of the performance the band played "The Soldiers of the Queen". This was enthusiastically encored, and afterwards "The Maple Leaf for Ever" was equally well received; in fact they were the only items that caused any special demonstration. I enclose an article from this morning's "P.-I." (the Seattle "Post-Intelligencer"), the most influential paper in the North-West, which deserves reproduction.

As a British-born American I know that I am stating the experience of thousands when I say that I felt it no treason to my native land to take the oath of allegiance to this country, no severing of old ties, and I feel it no lack of loyalty to my adopted country to still retain that deep love and pride in my native land which is the birthright of all Britons. Were it otherwise I would indeed lament "I am become a stranger unto my brethren, even an alien unto my mother's children". It is useless to keep alive old animosities, the causes for which have long ceased to exist, and I hope that Englishmen will soon learn to take a sane view of these people who, like themselves, "are neither children nor gods, but men in a world of men".

Yours truly, JOHN GRAHAM.

[Our correspondent, having made an exchange of countries, is naturally anxious to make the best of his bargain. In such a case patriotism has no place. We have never made any complaint against Americans desiring to get their own way in Alaska or rejoicing that they have got it. But we cannot find in the deliberate "loading" of the Alaska Commission with two avowed and extreme partisans as representatives of the United States by President Roosevelt, in the face of his treaty obligation to appoint "learned and impartial jurists", any evidence of special friendship for this country. No government in the world but that of the United States would have dared thus to outrage diplomatic correctness. We cannot accept American singing of English music-hall songs as a valuable set off.—ED. S. R.]

#### "THE TWO VOICES."

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

20 March.

SIR,—Lord Rosebery's allusion to "two voices, feebly bleating voices", referred probably as you intimate to Wordsworth-cum-Stephen. But in constant allusions to "two voices" in the Government, by Liberal politicians in previous speeches, I think Tennyson's poem of "The Two Voices" was in their minds and I have wondered often that some political quoter has not proceeded to apply to the Government the persistent question in that poem, of "the still small voice":

"Thou art so full of misery,  
Were it not better not to be?"

Yours truly,  
B. BROOKSBANK.

#### BOOKS OF TO-DAY—THEIR WEIGHT.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

20 March, 1904.

SIR,—I have hoped for a long time that some influential person would raise a cry of protest against the excessive weight of books, as published nowadays—more especially in the case of illustrated books of travel. I read a favourable critique in your, or other influential columns, of a book—and when it comes from my lending library it proves to be so heavy that it is an absolute labour to hold it up for reading and the book goes away practically unread. Can this excessive weight be necessary? Cannot our publishers do as their forerunners did and give us books of a convenient weight? Or, if they cannot, would your reviewers kindly add to their notices of a book a note of its weight in tons and cwt., so that we might order books within the powers of our biceps?

Faithfully yours,  
W. H. W.

#### THE USE OF "AN".

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

The Oaks, Botley, Hampshire,  
20 March, 1904.

SIR,—May I venture upon a small addition to some correspondence which has appeared in the SATURDAY REVIEW on the appropriate uses of the two forms of our indefinite article "a" and "an"? I think that the root of the question lies in the origin of our indefinite article—which I am inclined to attribute to the introduction of French words, Norman or later, into our very composite language. It should be noticed that our shorter form "a" is not now generally—and fifty years ago I think never was—pronounced as "ay", but had a very indefinite sound, more nearly approaching to "ah", and still more nearly approaching to the sound of the French "un", with its very imperfectly sounded "n", as in "un sabre"; which may perhaps be more fully shown by citing a few parallel examples, a balloon—un ballon; a dolphin—un dauphin; a falcon—un faucon, &c. In like manner our longer form "an" is generally given with a very indistinct evolution of the sound of the written vowel, and with much more resemblance to the sound of the French article—as in an abbot—un abbé; an heir—un héritier; an object—un objet. I therefore think that rules cannot be properly laid down for the use of "a" and "an" without taking cognisance of their derivation by us from the French, and the rules which usage established among them centuries ago.

I am, yours truly,  
R. LINDSAY.

#### THE WORST THREE TAGS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

SIR,—In the course of some years' experience on a local newspaper I have noticed that both writers and speakers find certain hackneyed phrases of service in avoiding the truth; and I think that it would at least make for sincerity if they could be debarred from using these three tags:—"This is as it should be." "The right man in the right place." "Second to none."

Am I not a favourite for the prize?

Yours faithfully,  
"BINOCULAR."

#### MATTHEW ARNOLD'S STANDARDS.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Poole, Dorset, 20 March.

SIR,—Mr. Maurice Baring may well betray polite surprise at the discovery that anyone who can appreciate Matthew Arnold's best work or apprehend his principles of criticism should fail to realise that Crabbe is a very great writer. Was it not Thomas Shaw of Cambridge who spoke of Crabbe's "peculiar and powerful genius", and has there been any first-class critic of literature, well acquainted with the life of

English country towns and villages, who has attempted to shake Crabbe's pedestal?

I have the honour to be, Sir,  
Your most obedient, humble servant,  
HERBERT H. STURMER.

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW.

Queen's Club Gardens, 20 March, 1904.

SIR,—Does not Mr. Maurice Baring take up the stick wrong end first? A writer is naturally and very properly sensitive to anything like a charge of plagiarism; but the main issues arise—not on the question whether literary usage obliged him to “quote” Matthew Arnold's standards when applying them to Crabbe, but whether Crabbe could bear to have them applied to him “with enthusiasm” at all. That they should have been so applied, and that this application of them should provoke no comment from students of Arnold: that (amongst other things with which he is not concerned) I ventured to think surprising as leading to the conclusion that fewer people than one supposed read Arnold. But of course it leads equally to various other conclusions: for example, to the amiable one that, poetry being so little read, any recommendation to read any poetry—even Crabbe's; and his, even by invoking Arnold's standards in praise of it—should be allowed to pass without comment. I like to think that this is the true explanation of the matter, believing as I do that Arnold has, amongst your readers, many friends vastly more worthy than I to say a word in his honour.

Mr. Baring, however, thinks a better explanation of the matter is that the words “inevitableness” and “natural magic” having “become part of the English language”, their use “excites no surprise”. But they have always been part of the English language; and the ordinary use of them is certainly not calculated to provoke surprise. We may talk freely of the inevitableness of a railway accident and of the natural magic of, say, Miss Marie Lloyd, without provoking comment; and if Mr. Baring used the words in this way only he was quite at liberty to apply them to whom or whatsoever he pleased. But surely it is a different thing when he comes to speak of poetry? Here the words have a meaning stamped upon them by a great critic of poetry, so that any other critic of poetry when he uses them, or any reader of poetic criticism when he comes across them, is bound to ask himself whether the work to which they are applied satisfies the meaning they have acquired by use in poetic criticism. To readers of Arnold at least, I think the distinction will be clear.

Well, then, in which sense did Mr. Baring use them? If in the ordinary sense, as “part of the English language”, he was bound, I think, to re-define them when he applied them to poetry. But if in Arnold's sense (the “inevitableness” of Wordsworth's best work; the lack of it in Goethe's; the “natural magic” of Keats'), he was equally bound to “acknowledge” their source. And by “acknowledge” I did not mean the academic trifle of putting them in “quotes”. I meant the larger acknowledgment of showing that the qualities which he discerned in Crabbe and which he named “inevitableness” and “natural magic” were the qualities which Arnold distinguished by the same names in greater poets than Crabbe. Mr. Baring doubts “whether Arnold would have acquiesced in Mr. Weekes' definition of Crabbe as a third-rate Wordsworth”. It was not intended as a “definition”; but he is quite right to pull me up. Matthew Arnold cared too much for poets and poetry to apply that sort of criticism to them; and it was perhaps a little discourteous by way of comment in blame of what another writer was intent on praising. But will some more worthy reader of Arnold tell us what he did say of Crabbe? My memory prompts me that he mentions Crabbe somewhere; and though I have spent a pleasant hour this morning turning over his unindexed books I cannot find the passage. What Crabbe's five contemporaries and Tennyson thought of Crabbe is too large a question for discussion here; but I am sorry not to be in the same critical boat with Edward Fitzgerald.

Thanking you for your hospitality,  
I am, Sir, yours &c., CHARLES WEEKES.

## REVIEWS.

### HIBERNIA PLACATA.

“Ireland in the New Century.” By the Right Hon. Sir Horace Plunkett. London: Murray. 1904. 5s. net.

THE Irish Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction is far more human than most Government offices, and its Vice-President, who might well be called its only begetter, has taken a step from which most officials would shrink. He has embodied his ideas on Irish affairs in a book, which will be as necessary to students of Ireland as Lord Milner's volume has been to those interested in Egypt. Sir Horace Plunkett comes of an old Irish stock (for even if the Plunketts are Norse, they have been 900 years in the island), two branches of which are Roman Catholic. Heredity safeguards him from the ordinary prejudices of Irish Unionists. For the last fifteen years he has been working at the reorganisation of Irish agriculture and industries, travelling through the country, examining practical problems with knowledge gained partly in America. He has Parliamentary experience, and he knows the worst aspect of his countrymen in their capacity of free and enlightened electors. In his economic campaigns he has received at times the most amazing abuse—he was once implored by a local newspaper to “cease his hellish work”!)—but has enlisted in the service of Ireland clergymen of both churches, politicians (a few) of all parties, landowners, professional men, schoolmasters, business men, farmers, and at least one poet. He must know Ireland and the Irish with an intimacy to which few have attained. And now he has written a book which should be a revelation to those who wish to learn. We are not at all sure how the book will be taken in Ireland. It is very frank, and Irishmen sometimes resent frankness in the printed word most vehemently when they are willing to admit in conversation that the printed word is perfectly true. But the book will strengthen its author's position in the minds of thinking people. It will, for instance, dispel a notion existing in some quarters that Sir Horace is a visionary who sees Irish questions in a roseate light, for the second half of his book is a plain statement of difficulties—many of them wantonly unnecessary—largely overcome by patience, while the first part is a careful analysis of the Irish national character and its political and social consequences. If he is an optimist, it is not for want of acquaintance with the seamy side of Irish life.

We have often had occasion to refer in this Review to the work of Sir Horace Plunkett and his helpers, and need not now go over old ground. But it is interesting to read a reformer's account of his own labours. The new industrial programme has been developed quietly since 1889 by means of the Irish Agricultural Organisation Society and kindred agencies. In 1896 Mr. Plunkett, then a Unionist M.P., got together a Recess Committee (which neither Mr. Justin McCarthy nor Colonel Saunderson would join) of Irishmen of various views to consider the industrial problem, and in 1899 Mr. Gerald Balfour established the new Department on the lines suggested by the unanimous report of that Committee.

The Department is in close touch with the County Councils, and its value is generally recognised. But at first the attempt to leave the beaten track aroused fury in both political parties. A Conservative hobnobbing with rebels! An insidious aristocrat trying to seduce Irishmen from Home Rule by illusory co-operative schemes! “Such an individual”, writes Sir Horace, “is regarded as a mere intruder who does not know the rules of the game, and he is treated by the leading players on both sides like a dog in a tennis-court”. The farmers distrusted each other and everyone else. The town of Rathkeale insisted that its butter “must be made on Nationalist principles, or it shan't be made at all”! One projected creamery had to be abandoned because its water supply “passed through a conduit lined with cement originally purchased from a man who now occupied a farm from which another had been evicted”. But the new movement pegged away steadily. “A very eloquent political speaker” who was engaged “gave to the propaganda a relish which my prosaic



economics altogether lacked. The Nationalist band sometimes came out to meet him. We all know the efficiency of the drum in politics and religion, but it seemed to me a little out of place in economics". Gradually people came to see that there was at least no sinister motive in the new movement. Many Roman Catholic priests have thrown themselves into its work. Belfast manufacturers have come to feel that the improvement of rural life in Munster is a matter in which they are concerned. The Irish language revival enthusiasts have also worked hard in the industrial movement. Even malevolent critics (of whom many remain) have had to change their ground. Sir Horace has too much humour and kindness to pay undue attention to attacks, but he might with advantage have gone into the only serious criticism of the creamery system, the argument often advanced that by sweeping away the small dairies it removes the necessity for skilled labour in the farms, and tends to impoverish the young stock, which can no longer be reared without the purchase of feeding stuff. The calf, if his diet has to be changed, profits by the improvement in veterinary knowledge fostered by the Department, but the vanishing dairymaid deserved consideration. The steadily decreasing demand for labour in rural Ireland presents a very serious and difficult problem. But it is quite certain that large creameries afford the only method by which the small Irish farmers can keep their market, and that the diffusion of scientific methods is of advantage to the country at large.

We have reversed the order of the book, and taken the "practical" portion first, because in it are to be found the credentials which establish the value of the "theoretical" section. In this the author considers the old misunderstanding between the two nations, the influence of politics and of religion on Irish life, the present state of Irish education, and similar topics. Some of his remarks are refreshingly paradoxical. When the Land League had got rural Ireland in its grip, paralysing independent action and honest dealing to an extent which no mere visitor could realise, we doubt whether anyone but Sir Horace Plunkett would have conceived the idea that its success proved that Kelts might yet be got to co-operate in a useful common policy. And yet the idea is sound. This predatory movement did in a way prove the possibility of making Irish rustics combine, at the cost of individual sacrifice, for public objects if their enthusiasm could be roused, though the extensive employment of outrage made it doubtful how far the League, after its inception, continued to be a genuine voluntary movement. Sir Horace does not allude to the lowering for a generation of standards of conduct in rural Ireland which is due to the successes of the Land League. Again, the incidents which followed the downfall of Parnell produced in most observers a mere sense of hopelessness at the instability of the Irish character. But Sir Horace maintains—and we believe he is right—that "thought upon the problems of national progress broadened and deepened, in a manner little understood by those who knew Ireland from without, and, indeed, by many of those accounted wise among the observers from within. Was the realisation of a distinctive national existence, many began to ask themselves, to be for ever dependent upon the fortunes of a political campaign?" Only an acute and sympathetic observer would have discovered that such a question was being asked. For thinking is done very quietly in Ireland, where public speaking has, as a rule, no more connexion with political thought than a Drury Lane pantomime has with the drama.

The examination of the Roman Catholic Church in its influence on secular life forms one of the most important chapters in the book, and readers will find several misconceptions about Irish priests quietly corrected. Sir Horace bears well-deserved testimony to the general absence of religious bigotry in Roman Catholic Ireland. He has found "that it is no disadvantage to a man to be a Protestant in Irish political life". The Celtic Irish are certainly not bigoted in religion, just as they are not cruel in temperament, but they can be easily moved to repudiation of their better natures by organisations which appeal to their predominant sentiment, their memory of past injustice.

In this lies the mischief of the new "Catholic Association"—just mentioned in this book—which is fostered by at least one Bishop in spite of Dr. Walsh's very utilitarian condemnation, and which deliberately aims at the revival and maintenance in private life of sectarian animosity.

We commend the remarks on University education to those who are willing to give Ireland any concession in this province except the one she wants. But it is impossible here to touch on the various interesting matters discussed in the book. Perhaps the most valuable feature in the whole volume is the examination of the new spirit of self-help struggling to the birth in Ireland, "the opinion—rapidly growing for the last dozen years—that great as is the responsibility of England for the state of Ireland, still greater is the responsibility of Irishmen". Old-fashioned Nationalists were so deeply impressed by such features in the history of their country as the trade-restrictions of the eighteenth century that their one idea was to worry England, partly in revenge, partly in the half-unconscious conviction that only England could undo the old mischief. Thus there grew up a most repulsive spirit, which delighted on the one hand in parading and exaggerating the poverty and helplessness of Ireland, and on the other in rhapsodising over the virtues of Irishmen and the brutality of the Saxon. So far as this spirit represented sincere conviction, its aim was to secure the millennium by mere legislation. It so completely captured Mr. Gladstone that he tried to propagate its pernicious teaching in England. To-day one can find very many ardent Nationalists, whose notions of history are perhaps as biased as their fathers' were, but who have made up their minds that Ireland can never prosper until Irishmen work hard instead of concentrating their minds exclusively on politics. This spirit is not yet, unfortunately, the dominant one, but that it has made its actual progress is due very largely to Sir Horace Plunkett.

The State during the last century did a good deal of pauperising work with the best intentions. The new policy insists on self-help as a condition to State aid. It would be most unwise to minimise the practical difficulties, but English observers (unless they exaggerate the actual achievement of the industrial movement) are likely to see in Ireland nothing but poverty and industrial depression, since they necessarily compare the country with England or Scotland of to-day, and not with the Ireland of twenty years ago. But the Irish farmers—who of course grumble habitually like other farmers—are realising that Government is affording new and strange facilities to the enterprising. And so we hear no more of "hellish work", but find the farmer telegraphing with confidence to his best friend, the Department in Dublin, "Al the pigs about here is dyin in showers. Send down a Vit at oncet"!

### THREE SIDES OF THE TRANSVAAL.

"The African Colony: Studies in the Reconstruction."  
By John Buchan. London: Blackwood. 1903.  
15s. net.

MR. BUCHAN'S justification for a new book on South Africa is excellently summarised at the end of his preface. "It may be easier for a man coming fresh to a new world to judge it correctly than for those inhabitants of that older world on whose wreckage the new is built." At any rate the opinions of such a man are worth setting forth, provided that he has taken pains to learn what he can of the older world. "The African Colony" is at least not the work of a globe-trotter (a person far more likely to wreck the Empire some day than the proverbial cavalry subaltern). Its author has served for three years under Lord Milner in the task of reconstruction, and, though his book is completely unofficial, its statements and verdicts are not the casual observations of an intelligent journalist, who pins out his discoveries like a row of butterflies, but the concise expression of exact knowledge. Hardly of profound knowledge, for three busy years will not enable a critic to sound the depths. Mr. Buchan, however, realises what many good men miss, that South African history, like its

geography, possesses essential unity; that it is not well to presume on that truth, since the country is now in the melting-pot: finally, that the South African colonist knows what he is talking about, and must not be assumed to have lapsed into barbarism because he sometimes looks at facts, which home-keeping men have never discovered, in a manner distasteful to homely wits.

The book is a little disjointed, somewhat too miscellaneous to be classified. The first section is given up to historical sketches, the second to "travel notes", the third to a discussion on the present political situation in the Transvaal. The author has chosen to figure as a literary Cerberus, and those who linger on the threshold may be in doubt which head to approach. The wise reader will elect to be a whole-dogger. If one is to gauge the value of a man's views on very complicated questions at issue in a distant country, it is an advantage to be allowed to see how he treats past events—which by this time ought to be dimly known to the public—and what he has to say of the physical aspect of the land. But a new writer who essays to be his own Theal, his own Gordon-Cumming (for Mr. Buchan has the sportsman's eye), and his own Bryce—with a difference—must recognise that he has set himself a difficult task. The danger of writing a book containing matter to interest everybody is that nobody may think it indispensable. The readers who like good descriptions may shrink from the facts of the labour question: the practical man—always specially suspicious of an author with a style—wanting to hear about the mines may distrust our informant who knows so much about the sixteenth-century Portuguese and can describe the Wood Bush so picturesquely. Mr. Buchan, after all, has taken the best course: he has written his book in his own way, and since he happens to partake of the somewhat diverse natures of the essayist, the sportsman, and the administrator, the public will be all the better for opening their eyes a little wider than the average writer on African matters suggests.

Criticism of the historical section would be obvious and rather unnecessary. We are glad to see a tribute to the Portuguese, because English writers have been systematically unfair to our old allies. Because Lourenço Marques is managed in as unbusinesslike a way as the London streets, because the mixed blood of Goa and Mozambique is to-day more in evidence than the Portuguese gentleman-adventurer, few Englishmen have taken the trouble to consider the amazing record of the men who anticipated our Elizabethans. The Boer, on the other hand, cannot complain that he has been overlooked by our writers. He has been idealised by that section of the English nation which he would most heartily despise, the sentimentalists who have never had a gun in their hands or a horse between their knees. He has been libelled by music-hall patriots. He has of late been most fairly judged by the men who have met him and fought him. Mr. Buchan writes of him briskly and with judgment, and we commend for consideration his very sound remark that the Boer, that mighty hunter, is seen at his worst in sport. On the native he is much more superficial, and he has a dangerous trick of generalising on the Bantu, that extensive race which includes such diverse types as the Zulu and the Bechuana.

But the political problem—which claims half the present volume—is the topic of most pressing interest. Mr. Buchan's chapter on Johannesburg is candid and amusing. The town has not had much intelligent criticism, and in its corporate capacity it is—not unnaturally—"touchy". His general estimate of the future of the Transvaal is perhaps excessively cheerful, but he always gives his reasons. The labour question is treated with most refreshing common sense, and, since many worthy citizens seem to imagine that the Transvaal wishes to import Chinese more from a perverse desire to make Mongolians miserable than for the less recondite purpose of doing its own necessary work efficiently, we trust that it will be widely read. It is interesting to learn that Van Riebeck desired to import Chinese to the Cape in 1653. The Dutch did introduce a great many "Malays" from Java, and the Asiatics have justified their presence as fishermen and gardeners. But the Cape was then a sparsely peopled wilderness.

The importation of indentured Indian labourers for the Natal plantations—the coolies being obliged to return at the end of their term—might very well have received more attention in the book. The point that this system exists should be impressed upon such ignorant moralists as Sir Henry Fowler. Mr. Buchan is no fanciful constitution-maker, but what he has to say on intercolonial relations and the existing genus of a federal system deserves attention. His views on the Army question are especially interesting, and he might have supplemented his account of the anomalous relations between the imperial and local armed forces by some reference to the chaos which Mr. Merriman caused in Sir Bartle Frere's time.

We have already had several descriptions of South Africa since the war, but the present book seems to us likely to be of more permanent value than its companions; for it is a careful examination of the elements out of which the future South Africa must be built. It does not, perhaps, discount sufficiently the speculative character of much African enterprise. The Transvaal would be quite an easy country to govern if the mines were owned by people who only wanted to dig out the gold and not to traffic in shares. The essential difficulty is that South African finance—and therefore South African industry—is so largely dependent upon operations in London and Paris. All industry stagnates unless the mines prosper, and the prosperity of the mines is not merely a matter of how much gold they contain and how easily it can be extracted, but very largely of how far the poorer mines are over-capitalised. Ultimately, of course, the questions should be very nearly identical, but many things obscure the identity.

#### THE HARD-BITTEN SPORTSMAN.

"The Hunting Library": Vol. II. "Fox Hunting in the Shires." By T. F. Dale. Vol. III. "The Master of Hounds." By G. F. Underhill. London: Grant Richards. 1903. 7s. 6d. each.

"Points of the Horse." By Captain Hayes. London: Hurst and Blackett. 1904. 34s.

"Eighty Years' Reminiscences." By Colonel Anstruther Thomson. 2 vols. London: Longmans. 1904. 21s.

"Horses, Guns, and Dogs." By J. Otho Paget and others. London: Allen. 1903. 6s.

THIS is surely one of the strangest hunting seasons on record. There is no parallel, we believe, to the fact that at least four first-class packs have stopped hunting owing to the deep state of the country. The Quorn, Pytchley, the Grafton and the Cheshire have cancelled their fixtures for the time being, while, even in High Leicestershire Mr. Fernie has not been out every hunting day. All honour to the masters of these hounds, who, in spite of great temptation, have wisely considered the farmers and saved the country from very serious damage. There is time during this enforced idleness to read several books on Hunting and Horses and among them to notice, first, "Vol. II. of the Hunting Library," with which we are disappointed. Though practical enough in some respects, it tells us nothing new, and the histories of the various packs, which it deals with, lack interest. The book seems to be written for those who know next to nothing of hunting, horses or hounds, and we should strongly advise these and also others who are not very well off, to avoid beginning their education at Melton. It seems strange to see such a misprint as "Masters" for "Musters" in a book on hunting (the error is also repeated in the index); while Catmore should be Catmose. The author while giving the origin of Burbidge's Cover does not tell us how the equally famous Sherbrooke Cover was made. It was planted by a Nottinghamshire squire called Sherbrooke, a contemporary of the sixth Duke of Rutland, as a token of gratitude for the sport he had enjoyed with the Duke's hounds. With reference to ladies in the hunting-field we heard a rather neat thing said the other day. Someone asked whether there had been a big field at a certain meet and the reply was "Oh yes, a big field and quite a nice sprinkling



of men." Mr. Dale had perhaps heard this and so wrote his chapter on "Ladies in the Shires". The chapter on "Dress and Equipment" is all right in its way, but the writer fails to give the would-be sportsman any advice on the subject of dress. Perhaps it is as well. The illustrations are adequate; some of them quite good.

The "Master of Hounds" by G. F. Underhill is Vol. III. of the Hunting Library. It is indeed sad to think the author died before the whole of the proofs of his work were revised. This is the more to be regretted as we cannot help thinking that, had he lived, the book would have been more interesting, more complete and more accurate. His first chapter on Modern Fox Hunting very naturally begins with a dissertation on "Capping", and this subject is referred to again later on. There are no doubt many excellent reasons why the system should have been instituted, and, apart from the unpleasantness attached to the office of collector, it ought to have been carried into effect without serious friction; but the fact remains that it has not been a success, and, as a substitute, the Grafton have now issued a very stringent order as to subscriptions, £35 as a minimum and £5 a day after the first day. If this can be carried out, all dangers should be eliminated. The remarks on shooting syndicates are singularly ill-advised. We know of no case in which farmers have not been liberally treated in the matter of presents of game. The letter from the gamekeeper here quoted is not answered for the very good reason that it is quite unanswerable. One could wish that the author had been more correct in stating that the number of foxhunting volunteers for the Imperial Yeomanry, during the Boer war, was so great that the difficulty was in the selection. Commanding officers could tell a different tale. The chapter on Famous Masters of Hounds is singularly disappointing. The author says there may be sins of omission and asks pardon for them, but the sins are so great and so many that this pardon will not be very readily granted. To leave out such masters of the art as Mr. George Lane-Fox, Lord Macclesfield, Mr. J. C. Musters, Sir Richard Sutton, Mr. Reginald Corbett, Mr. Anstruther Thomson and Mr. T. Garth, not to speak of others seems ridiculous. In a memoir of Assheton Smith, it is mentioned that one of his best known hunt servants was Jack Shirley, of whom we remember hearing that he was seen one day galloping over one of those dreadful molehill fields in Leicestershire, an open clasp knife in his mouth, his reins loose on his horse's neck, tying a new bit of whipcord on his thong. Could indifference to danger further go? The pages on Mr. George Osbaldeston are fuller of incident and interest. One or two things about him may be added to the author's remarks. It is little known that he never owned a horse or a hound after he was forty. He was not of prepossessing appearance, as may be judged from the remark made by an old woman in a field when she saw the "Squire" who happened to be shooting with Sir R. Sutton at Linford. "Is that a man or a monkey?"

Colonel Ricardo's chapter on "The Master's Expenses" is, we think, the best in the book. We must differ from his statement that there has been little change in the cost of hunting hounds during the last twelve or fourteen years. Indeed Colonel Ricardo contradicts himself flatly on page 94 on this question and again on page 95. On the point of damage done by hounds drawing covers before they are shot, opinions differ. The master of hounds holds one and the shooting tenant another; but it is beyond doubt that hounds will absolutely ruin "a shoot", if the covers are small. The pheasants are scattered over the countryside and do not return. It does hunting no good to exaggerate, and though foxes and pheasants can be and are shown together, it is quite idle to suppose that the former live on black beetles and grasshoppers. The author says that the Tarpoley Hunt Club did not begin hunting till 1770, but we find an entry in the club book of 4 November, 1765, as follows: "Mr. John Barry having sent the foxhounds to a different place to what was ordered and not meeting them himself at that place, was sent to Coventry, but returned upon giving six bottles of

claret to the hunt". It is probably quite true that no single master of hounds makes a penny out of the business now; on the contrary, every one of them is considerably out of pocket, but we remember hearing of a certain master of hounds asking for a larger subscription. "I don't know what more we can do for him, we find him a house in Grosvenor Square". Dick Christian was probably almost unique, but the author seems to have forgotten, if he ever knew, Dick Webster of Melton, who was well known with the Quorn and the Belvoir in the sixties and seventies and was chosen to pilot the Prince of Wales (King Edward VII.). Of Whyte Melville, the author tells us little. We have never heard that he was a brilliant man over a country, very much to the contrary; but he certainly did say to the master, after a season at Melton, that in spite of an empty pocket, a ruined constitution, and three inferior horses he had enjoyed himself immensely. However he always said the right thing, as for example, when talking to a lady of large dimensions, he said confidentially "I never admired a woman under fifteen stone". It seems a pity that Mr. Underhill did not get a huntsman of greater authority and better known than John Scott to write the chapter "The Huntsman's Point of View". Of staghounds the author tells us hardly anything. He never even mentions Lord Rothschild. The chapter on otterhounds is good, but we wish there could have been some mention of former masters, for instance Rowland Hill, afterwards Lord Hill and his brother Geoffrey so well known about twenty-five years ago, both of whom, alas! have gone to other hunting-grounds. Lastly, we come to the Master of Hounds Library. Surely a place here should be found for Captain Hayes' "Points of the Horse", of which a third edition is now published by Messrs. Hurst and Blackett. It is incomparably the best book on the subject which has been written, and is full of interest from beginning to end. The author knows everything about horses worth knowing, and the book should be in the library of all hunting men. The illustrations are admirable.

Colonel Anstruther Thomson's book is wonderfully good reading. He must surely have broken a record to be eight times master of hounds and write his first book at the age of eighty. He makes no pretension to style and there is rather too much of speeches and dinners, but the book should be read. The letters from the Crimea, and the description of Loch and Parkes' capture and imprisonment by the Chinese are of more than passing interest, while the letter of Lord Mar refusing permission to draw his coverts is an extraordinary effort and should be read to be appreciated. The author's knowledge of the spelling of Highland names is, to say the least, elementary. He makes no fewer than three mistakes in about 150 words. This ignorance in a mere Englishman might be pardoned, but we can hardly forgive a Scotchman for such lapses. Of his experience as a Parliamentary candidate the less said the better. It sounds strange to hear of a plucky sportsman retiring in the midst of a contest because he thought he would be beaten. The book however must not be taken seriously. The illustrations are only moderate.

"Horses, Guns and Dogs" is a book which should be given to every boy wishing to become a sportsman. Mr. Otho Paget's chapters on horses are in every way quite admirable; we have never come across so much good advice in so few pages. Mr. Dewar and Mr. A. B. Portman write on shooting and we could only wish the chapters were longer. Mr. Dewar seems to doubt whether a winged woodcock will run. There is no doubt whatever about it, for we have known many cases in which they have run for hundreds of yards. Mr. Alexander Innes Shand contributes the chapters on dogs, chatty, cheerful writing with many useful hints. He does not mention the great drawback to Clumbers—their unwillingness to face very thick gorse. The illustrations are as good as the text, which is saying a good deal.

But we must not loiter any longer over the feeding troughs, even though they contain literary diet. Let us up and away, to sail in the wake of the flying pack streaming over the wide pastures.

## AN ARCHÆOLOGICAL ANACHRONISM.

"The Worship of the Dead, or the Origin and Nature of Pagan Idolatry and its Bearing upon the Early History of Egypt and Babylonia." By Colonel J. Garnier. London: Chapman and Hall. 1904. 12s. 6d. net.

COLONEL GARNIER has been born a hundred years too late. His big book with its ponderous title might have passed muster in an age which read Bryant and Sir William Betham and believed in Cushites and Arkites; to-day it would be kindest to the author to pass it over in silence. The marvellous theories and etymologies with their farrago of false facts which we had imagined were long since dead and buried are again dug up and paraded for the benefit of a more critical and better-informed generation. We seem to be turning over the pages of some dusty and half-forgotten volume as once more the old names and guesses pass before our eyes—Athēna the feminine of the Semitic Adon, Juno "derived from the Chaldee D'June", Bacchus who is Bar-Chus, et hoc genus omne. Not but that Colonel Garnier has endeavoured to give his lucubrations a more modern air, by mixing his quotations from Bryant and Faber, or from the forgeries which were palmed off on Colonel Wilford with Piazzi Smyth's new Pyramid religion and a dissertation to prove that the phenomena of spiritualism have a demoniac origin. He has also read two or three books on Egyptian and Assyrian discoveries—not very recent ones, however, as all he knows about Assyrian religion is derived from the chapter upon it communicated by Sir Henry Rawlinson to his brother's "Herodotus" in the infancy of Assyriological research. Nor has he studied even these two or three books with the accuracy which modern science requires, as witness the curious name "Sin-gamil" or the belief that the Assyrian High-priest Isme-Dagon and the Babylonian king of that name were one and the same. For Colonel Garnier, however, the sciences of archæology and comparative philology do not exist, and the publication of his book is simply a grotesque anachronism.

## NOVELS.

"The Magnetic North." By Elizabeth Robins. London: Heinemann. 1904. 6s.

Deceptive as often seems in literature the discrimination of sex one cannot in such a book as "The Magnetic North" altogether escape it, since the merit of the work is less a matter of imagination than of inventive construction, which must rest for its effectiveness on knowledge at first hand. Such knowledge it is very possible that Miss Robins has, but it is curious that she is most convincing when dealing with a life of which she can have little experience, the toil of the trail northward on the Yukon ice, and when she reaches the comparative civilisation of a miners' camp she drops into the phrase and manner of time-honoured description. Here and there, but only here and there, one can detect the feminine limitation, the blurred guess instead of the strident memory. In the opening scene, for example, on the freezing Yukon, neither speech nor action suggests the attitude of unseasoned men to deadly peril; and clever as is the psychology of the two record breakers on the trail, it is often rather the reflectiveness of the study than of men threatened with fear and worn out with fatigue. For all that the story of the trail is the best thing in the book. It is not perfectly "seen"; the camping in the snow is very inadequately realised, the easy fashion in which the day's march is measured marks its inexperience; but it is a difficult piece of work—difficult from its inevitable monotony, its openings for over-emphasis and over-subtlety—admirably done. The book frankly confesses by its map to be something of a guide-book, a character accentuated by the introduction of a very recognisable personality towards the close, and as such it must be judged rather than as a work of fiction. As such too it would have been improved by a braver reliance on its proper character, and the elimination of all sentiment. As sentimental concessions may be reckoned the Esquimaux baby in the Winter Camp, and Maudie in Minook. The baby supplies a pseudo-

femininity to a scene which should count the absence of softening features as its best claim to esteem, and Maudie is a conventionalised echo from Californian hills. Maudie is the greater misfortune, and the story, after her entrance, sinks into the melodramatic channel which seems to engulf novelists in that part of the world. But, despite its obvious obligations to other writers, the book, until Minook is reached, is of real interest, apart from its achievement as a woman's appreciation of the ways of men. Had a man written of affairs so wholly feminine as these are the reverse, he might have shown a more subtle divination, realised better a pictorial quality, but he could scarcely have bettered the sympathy and good faith with which Miss Robins has dealt with every aspect of the men, who have, whether as saints or sinners, felt the magnetism of the North.

"David March." By J. S. Fletcher. London: Methuen. 1904. 6s.

We shall never want to read this book again. It is a moderately clever romance, told in pseudo-Restoration conversations, and pseudo-antique narrative. We choose for an example of the former: "Ye were a bit hasty there, lads, but I heartily commend ye for your zeal. I think the young man may go—but natheless I like not that he should wear an air of mystery, and perhaps I ought to detain him in custody. How think you, good Dr. Proudfoot?" Of the latter we select the following: "Cynthia knitted her brows. She knew that her shrewd-witted tiring-maid had gauged the situation with unerring perspicacity, and that her forecast of the events of the evening was only too likely to be accurate." The hero suffers from circumstances which, as in the case of Mr. Yellowplush, have "wrapped up his buth in a mistry". From p. 18 we learn that he was adopted on "March ye 6th, 1667", and apprenticed on "May ye 21st, 1776" (sic) at a truly heroic age. Like John Ridd, he comes before Judge Jeffries (sic); but of course all ends happily.

"The Filagree Ball." By Anna Katherine Green. London: Unwin. 1904. 6s.

This is an American detective story not likely to satisfy those who have read Poe or Gaboriau. It is highly artificial in structure, full of pitfalls obviously constructed merely to entrap the reader and of blind trails designed to lead him astray; all of which coerce the author into a dénouement entirely wanting in probability. The simplicity essential to a really good work of this class is absent.

"The Master Rogue." By David Graham Phillips. London: Grant Richards. 1904. 6s.

This is yet another romance of the financial world, an autobiography of an unscrupulous multi-millionaire. The sketch is drawn in coarse broad lines: but it is powerful and consistent and not without clever touches. Those who like this class of book will like this book.

"Life in a Garrison Town." By Lieutenant Bilse. London: Lane. 1904. 6s.

This book has revealed much which is unsatisfactory in the garrison of Forbach; especially as regards the general slackness prevailing, the manner in which officers run up debts, the unsavoury and dishonourable squalor of their private lives, and the indefensible and unjust harshness with which subordinates are treated. Generally speaking there can be no doubt that a long stay in a small frontier garrison would be very demoralising, both from a moral and military standpoint, to all ranks of a unit belonging to any army. The only remedy would appear to be a more frequent interchange at least of officers, and a more thorough supervision on the part of the higher authorities. In this particular case the commanding officer appears to have been much to blame—a very pertinent instance of the harm which may result from the unrestrained doings of a bad and injudicious commander. But, even in the novel, it is admitted that life at other and larger stations is in many cases different. Consequently it is absurd to jump at once to the conclusion, as so many have already done, that, because such a state of things has existed in one place, the whole German army is rapidly going to the dogs. Doubtless the military authorities—who by the way have



practically admitted that the allegations in this book are substantially correct—will take measures to prevent a recurrence of such evils as regards these small frontier garrisons. Indeed already the principal actors have been relieved of their posts; whilst Lieutenant Bilse, who incidentally may have done much good by showing up these scandals, has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment.

#### NEW BOOKS AND REPRINTS.

"The Durbar." By Mortimer Menpes. London: Black. 1903. 20s. net.

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(Continued on page 402.)

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hundred illustrations brought together in this handsome volume are proof. Though to eyes unaccustomed to Oriental colour they may sometimes seem a crude excess of vividness, yet collectively they give no more than a correct general effect of the Durbar and the people who made it what it was. The figure studies—undoubtedly the best feature of the collection—reproduce with fidelity and with colouring of much beauty a well-selected series of types from the many strange and striking men and beasts who joined in this wonderful celebration. Still two or three people have a right to complain. The caricature—for it is nothing else—of Lord Curzon, which forms the frontispiece, ill accords with the extravagant eulogies of this “born ruler of men” which appear and reappear ad nauseam throughout the text. Lord Kitchener also suffers at his hands, though not so painfully. Among other things which might have been well left out is the greater part of the letterpress so far as it is not descriptive of the illustrations. In matter and manner it might be described as indifferent journalese. An artist of the Durbar is not bound to know anything of Indian history and affairs: still less is he bound to discuss them. But if he does undertake the task at least he might have got some qualified person to look through the proofs. He would then have foiled the wag in the Punjab camp who invented for him that mysterious potentate “His Highness Dogra Sowar” and beguiled him into representing Gūrū Govind Singh shouting his war-cry at the siege of Delhi in 1857. And a candid friend was certainly wanted to excise the closing chapter of “Reflections”, which attain an inadmissible degree of ill-informed adulation.

“The Stock Exchange Official Intelligence, 1904.” London: Spottiswoode and Co.

Like other official year books, this Stock Exchange reference annual adds to its usefulness with each issue. Notwithstanding, as the editor explains, that in 1903 the condition of the money market discouraged joint-stock enterprise, there were no fewer than 465 companies more or less new to include in its pages. For the first time a table of the crushings of the principal Transvaal mining companies with the gold results is given, and no effort has been spared to make the book as serviceable as possible to all interested in Government or municipal securities or mining and industrial enterprise on limited liability lines.

“Miss Farren.” By Sir Thomas Lawrence. Engraved by M. Cormack. London: Frost and Reed. 1904. £6 6s.

We have received an impression of the mezzotinto engraving by Mr. Cormack after Sir Thomas Lawrence of Miss Farren. It is pleasing, and the work is of course good, but we do not think the subject lends itself to mezzotint, much of the brilliance and delicacy of the original being lost in the process. Bartolozzi's engraving in stipple far more closely reproduces the refinement and spirit of the painting. Mr. Cormack has none the less produced a desirable engraving which should rank high amongst modern work.

“Revue des Deux Mondes.” 15 Mars. 3fr.

This number contains the first connected and complete published narrative of the proceedings at the late Conclave. It appears to be compiled from the accounts of two or three well-informed persons who were either themselves present at the scenes described or had their information direct from those who were. As it is written from the French point of view, it is naturally sympathetic towards Cardinal Rampolla. It is quite clear now that the ill-advised threat of Austria to employ the veto in the event of his election had nothing to do with his failure to receive the triple crown. The strong movement in favour of Cardinal Sarto's election seems to have originated with “the young and brilliant Archbishops of Northern Italy”: we assume that the prelates of Milan and Bologna are intended. In the opinion of these very able ecclesiastics twenty-five years of one policy was enough and Rampolla's reign would have been simply a continuation of Leo XIII's. Gotti's German supporters joined them and without much trouble Sarto's necessary majority made itself. It may be doubtful whether Rampolla might not have succeeded had the method of “accessio” been allowed by the Cardinal Dean (Oreglia), but he declined to permit it on the ground that it was an irregular method of procedure not properly sanctioned by precedent, whereas as a matter of fact it was actually employed in the election of Leo XIII. The Conclave appears either not to have noticed or to have ignored this strange decision, and it may have made a wide difference in the result. It is highly probable that, seeing his considerable lead at first, 24 votes, enough would have “acceded” after two or three ballots to secure Rampolla's election.

“Burdett's Hospitals and Charities, 1904” (The Scientific Press, Limited) is the Year-Book of Philanthropy. The state of business depression in 1903 has been the occasion of anxiety to the organisers of charity, and it is highly satisfactory, as Sir Henry Burdett says, to find that on the whole the hospitals and charities have been able to pursue their work without material diminution. There has been an encouraging growth in the number of small givers. Sir Henry mentions from

Southwark what he calls “a rather comical illustration of the consequences of the removal of hospitals and infirmaries from the centre to the outskirts of great cities”. The Southwark Workhouse has inadequate accommodation for sick and accident cases. When beds at Guy's have been full, patients have been sent on to the Southwark Workhouse and trouble has arisen through non-provision by the Guardians of receiving wards. “Instead of discharging their public functions by providing such accommodation at the Southwark Workhouse, or on some suitable site within their jurisdiction, the Guardians have endeavoured to raise public opinion against Guy's Hospital because it does not quietly admit every such applicant. Some of the newspapers have treated the matter as a hospital scandal, but if the facts are as stated, it would appear to be a grave Poor-Law scandal, requiring the prompt interference of the Local Government Board.”

Dean Hodges tells in a pleasant but not a particularly distinguished way the story of “Fountains Abbey” (Murray, 10s. 6d. net) drawing his material mainly from Mr. W. K. St. John Hope's description and explanation of the Abbey and Mr. Walbran's work. The book has been produced with much care in regard to illustration, type and binding. Its leaves are cut: the convenience of this to readers is really large: there is constant misery and impatience in the work of cutting the pages of even a short book. Perhaps only a few people who read as they cut, cut to the end when the book is large.—We have received a cheap edition of “S. Gilbert of Sempringham” by Rose Graham (Elliot Stock, 5s.).—“Mayfield” by E. M. Bell Irving (Clowes, 6s. net.) is the story of an old Wealden village. Writing on local superstitions Mr. Irving records an extraordinary one concerning the sulphur butterfly: if the first sulphur of the season were caught, its head cut off, and the rest of it placed under a stone, a “crock” of money would be found under this stone later on.—We have also received a “History of Dublin” (Dolland: Dublin) which is a portion of “The History of Dublin” by the late Sir John Gilbert; “King's College, Cambridge, Register” (Smith, Elder, 7s. 6d. net) by J. Withers; “Neolithic Man in North-East Surrey” (Elliot Stock, 6s. net) by Walter Johnson and William Wright; “Austrian Life in Town and Country” (Newnes) by F. E. Palmer; and “From My Window in Chelsea” by Mrs. Ella Fuller Maitland (Smith, Elder, 3s. 6d. net) a collection of papers which have appeared in weekly and evening papers.

For This Week's Books see page 404.

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The Secretary (Mr. Richard J. Paull), having read the notice convening the meeting, and the report of the auditors,

The Chairman said: In the opinion of the board the report and accounts on the whole are satisfactory. There is a considerable improvement over the report and accounts of the previous year, and I think they indicate that the troubles which we have had to face have now ceased, and that we may hope for the time when the circumstances of the Company and the details of our business may show a much better state of things. The figures indicate an increase in the labours and the endeavours of the directors, and the whole of our staff, who, I must candidly admit, never spare pains or trouble to make the Company's affairs a success. The premium income is £1,101,182, which is larger than that of any other company transacting the same class of business. Seven years ago those figures were represented merely by a sum of £374,375—namely, three to four times less than the present figures. But I think I have said on previous occasions that an increase in figures has never been, and never will be, regarded as a test of success by the board. Our feeling is that £1,000,000 of good business is worth £1,000,000 of bad business and the result of that has been that the directors have laid themselves out with a will, backed by the management, to so arrange the business of the Corporation that we may have our £1,000,000 of good business. If we did not do this, I am certain that we, or any other company, would go a step in the downward path. You may see the shadow of our idea in the great provision that is made for contingencies, and in the full details which we put before you in our accounts as to the manner in which the business has been transacted. The keynote for an insurance company, in my opinion, can be expressed in two watchwords—one is safety, the other is fairness. The one indicates the requirements of the shareholders, the other indicates our relations with the policy-holders; but it must not be supposed for a moment that the policy holders have no interest in the safety of the Company. If there were a doubt as to the safety of any company there would at once be a falling off in premium income, especially in regard to such business as guarantee business where the safety of the company is all-important to the insured. The year's premium in comparison with last year is less by £65,000, but the Company is just as popular. We could, without any difficulty, have accepted proposals to the extent of over £2,000,000; but we are more wary. We decline to accept a risk which is an undue risk or an unfair risk. Policy-holders are naturally desirous of insuring in a company at the lowest rate of premium. It is utterly unimportant to them whether the insurance company makes a loss, or whether it makes a profit. The decrease is almost entirely in the one department of employers' insurance, inasmuch as in all other departments, or classes of insurance, there has been an increase, and a paying increase. The improvement in our business is shown by increased rates. I have some figures here which will probably indicate to you the nature of the increase that has happened. In the year 1902 the number of policies which were renewed at an increased rate—the premium being recognised by the policy-holders as insufficient—was 6,500, the premiums showing an increase of about £20,000 in the year. In 1903 the number of policies showing an increased rate was 15,828, with a premium income of £76,154. There are cases, however, where the policies have lapsed and where the business has been allowed to go to other companies. We have done this deliberately; we have not interfered. We prefer that they should go to some other company rather than that they should remain with us at a loss to ourselves. It is almost invariably the case that, although we have lost money, they have been eagerly taken up by other companies at even a lower rate than they were paying to us, and on which we had suffered a loss. In the year 1902 the number of lapsed policies was 10,039, and the premiums were £30,471. In the year 1903 the number of policies that lapsed was no less than 9,760, and the premium income that passed us was £48,446. A question which I have no doubt you will ask is, What other steps have you taken for the purpose of insuring yourselves against an undue call on the funds of the Company? I will tell you. In the year 1902 we paid £20,000 by way of reinsurance in the year 1903, with a smaller business. That is to say, with smaller risk—we paid £39,271, showing an increase in the amount of our reinsurances of no less than one-third. A point that has been impressed upon us, and, I hope, also on other companies, has been the desire to come to a common agreement whereby risks shall not be taken haphazard, but that some fair arrangement should be made which would satisfy the policy-holders and at the same time prevent what I think, in default of any better term, I may call a cut-throat policy. If that were done I believe the whole or the larger and more important companies would do as much business, and at much better rates. So far as this Company is concerned, we would heartily join in any step in that direction. Turning to the debtor side of the account, the compensation paid for the year 1902 was £713,023; for the year 1903 the amount was £651,341, being less by £61,682. For the purposes of consideration you ought to regard these two figures as one, inasmuch as otherwise you get no means of comparison with the previous year. If claims are hastened slightly the compensation would be more; if, on the other hand, there was a little delay, the compensation paid would be less. But, taking the two items, compensation paid and provision for claims outstanding, you have the real test of success or failure of this and of every other company of the kind. The amounts in the year 1902 were £484,485; in the year 1903 £661,341. This falling off indicates my text of safety; it means that we have had better business—that is to say, that the claims have not been as many in number or as large in amount as they were in the previous year, and that is a matter, I think, of great congratulation to all of us. You might say, "Well, how do you know that this is better business?" I will now give you some figures which you will not get from the balance-sheet—namely, the number of claims in the United Kingdom. In the year 1902 the number of claims in the United Kingdom was 59,297; in the year 1903 the figures have sunk to 40,349. You might say, "This may indicate that you have not settled your claims so closely." That is not the case; because, as a matter of fact, I have made a careful examination, and find that the claims outstanding are one-sixth less this year than last. In other parts of the world we know that a similar diminution is apparent. The real truth is that we are not going to deceive ourselves as to the proper sum to be set aside for claims. We have taken annuities on an annuity basis in many cases where we see no hope of settlement. I believe we are the only company that has taken that step. Every effort is made to settle our claims speedily, and I am perfectly certain that we are not beaten by any other company in that respect. This year we have made an elaborate arrangement by which we propose to settle still more closely; but, if we do, you must not be disappointed when you see that a portion of our assets are consumed for that purpose. Now I dare say you would like to know what the provision for the claims outstanding has been. In the year 1902 the provision was £415,000; in the year 1903 the provision is £425,000. The provision for claims outstanding by our Company during the last seven years is as follows:—In 1897 it amounted to £25,000; in 1898 it was £144,645; in the year 1899, £137,024; in the year 1900, £209,712; in the year 1901, £300,000; in 1902 to £415,000; and in 1903 to £425,000, and I sincerely hope that there will be no necessity for any further increase in that direction. This provision is a sermon on my text of safety, and I want to impress upon you that you are members of a Company where your management conceives that security is far better than mere large premiums. I have reason to believe that the present Commission sitting at the Home Office are very likely to conceive that the safety of the workmen under their charge must be looked to, and that it should be necessary that every company should disclose the number of permanent annuities chargeable on the funds of the company and the amount that has been set aside for the purpose of meeting this liability. I think that with a perfectly smiling face we can accept that. We certainly see no reason to oppose it; we have done it of our own motion. The Act gives a maximum liability of £300. But how about the permanent total disablement where a man, perhaps in receipt of £50 a year, may live from the age of 20 to the age of 80? Three hundred pounds is no measure of such a liability. The feature that we see chiefly in employers' liability is the great improvement in the happy art of claim-making. There is no question about it that the British workman, who surpasses our continental workman in many respects, is also coming to the conclusion that he will surpass him in the art of making a good big claim against his employer, and he is pursuing it to the bitter end, and, I have no doubt, with great success. He is represented on the Commission for the purpose of getting

the first fortnight taken away, so that he may have compensation from the day that he meets with an accident, the loss to be his employers'; the loss to himself to be nil. The result of that is that it makes us extremely careful and cautious in the manner in which we make our provision for outstanding claims. But you may take it from us that, under no circumstances shall we depart from the strenuous determination not to be led away by rivalry. After referring in eulogistic terms to the services of the staff, the Chairman concluded by moving the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. W. A. McArthur, M.P., seconded the motion. Mr. Vintner having congratulated the board and the shareholders on the improved condition of the company's affairs, the motion was put and carried unanimously. A vote of thanks to the Chairman, directors, and staff concluded the proceedings.

## NUNDYDROOG COMPANY.

THE eleventh ordinary general meeting of the Nundydroog Company, Limited, was held on Wednesday, at Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Captain William Bel McTaggart (the Chairman) presiding.

The Secretary (Mr. Richard Garland) read the notice convening the meeting, and also the auditors' report.

The Chairman stated that during the year there were 65,860 tons of quartz milled, which yielded 63,225 oz. of gold, and 60,772 tons of tailings cyanided, which produced 6,604 oz. together, 70,141 oz. of gold. These figures showed increases, compared with the previous year, of 10,920 tons in quartz and 363 tons in tailings treated, and of 12,107 oz. in gold produced, which represented £46,350. The average yield of the quartz was 19 dwt. per ton, and of the tailings 2 dwt. 4 gr., being higher by 4 gr. and 10 gr. respectively. The total income, comprising proceeds of gold, interest, and transfer fees, amounted to £253,058, and the profit to £122,327. Adding to this the sum brought forward and £171 interest on Consols, the total available profit was £122,971. Out of this, two interim dividends were paid of 1s. 4d. per share on July 24 and 1s. 6d. per share on November 17, absorbing £68, 66 13s. 4d., and various other sums were charged to profit and loss account for income-tax on profits, depreciation, &c., totalling £12,312 9s. 10d., so that a balance remained at the end of December of £42,092 5s. 6d. This admitted of a final dividend of 1s. 8d. per share, and left a balance of £1,758 18s. 10d. to be carried forward. The total dividends for the year had, therefore, reached £108,900, equal to 45 per cent. on the capital, as compared with 40 per cent. for the year 1902. During the past year the underground development had been on an increasingly large scale, the total measurements of driving, sinking, and rising having reached the high figure of 13,783 ft., or 2 1/2 miles, an amount of work far in excess of anything previously accomplished. There were 39 rock drills on an average throughout the year. The increased expenditure over that for 1902 was £21,345 11s. 5d., for which the shareholders had received an increased dividend, more quartz had been crushed and treated, and the ore reserves had been augmented by about 13,000 tons, representing a value of £52,000. At the mill ten additional heads of stamps were erected, bringing the number up to 80. The cyanide works were about to be extended so as to treat 2,000 tons a month more of mill tailings, increasing the total capacity of the works to 7,000 tons a month. Last October some stoppages of the pumping machinery occurred, owing to accidents to the pit-work in Taylor's shaft at a time of unprecedented rainfall, and the water rose in the southern part of the mine to within a few feet of the 1,400 ft. level. The operations in that section below that depth were retarded for about two months, but the water was drained and all work resumed by the end of December. The excessive rainfall also caused great damage to the tank from which the Mysore Government had contracted to supply the Kolar mines with water. It would take a considerable amount of expense and labour to have this enormous tank repaired, but it was hoped that by the end of this year everything would be in order, and that they would be able to obtain the promised supply. He might say that the excessive rainfall filled up the Company's tanks, and, whatever might happen in the way of drought this year, no hindrance from the want of water was anticipated. The various companies working on the Kolar field had exercised their right to apply to the Mysore Government for additional electric power from the Cauvery system. Arrangements for furnishing the supply were in hand, and would probably be completed before the end of this year. The rate paid to the Government for the first year up to August last was £20 per horse-power. Since that time the rate of £18, fixed by the agreement for the second year, had been in force. It had been deemed advisable to consider a scheme whereby a central station might be erected and additional electrical power generated by steam for the more economical working of the machinery on the field. A small company had been formed for the purpose with a capital of £30,000, the whole of which had been subscribed by the five leading companies on the field, and this Company's share of the undertaking was 1,150 shares of £1 each. The general health of the employees had been satisfactory, for which they must give credit to Dr. O'Donnell and his assistants. Great credit was also due to Mr. Thomas Richards (the superintendent) and his staff for their continued successful conduct of the Company's business in India. A cablegram dated the 22nd inst., from the mines more than bore out all the expectations which had been formed. It was as follows:—"Kennedy's Shaft, 96 ft. below the 1,600 ft. level—Lode 5 ft. wide, assaying 1 oz. 2 dwt. per ton. 1,600 side drive north on, footwall part of the lode, under the shaft, driven 79 ft. from the cross-cut—Lode 1 ft. wide, assaying 1 oz. 8 dwt. per ton. 1,500 south winze at 75 ft. from the shaft sunk 18 ft. 6 in.—Lode 1 ft. wide, assaying 6 dwt. per ton. 800 ft. level south, 19 ft. from the rise—Lode 1 ft. wide, assaying 2 oz. per ton. 703 ft. level south, 19 ft. from the 800 rise—Lode 9 in. wide, assaying 1 oz. per ton. Main shaft, 65 ft. below the 1,640 ft. level—Stringers assaying 4 1/2 dwt. 1,640 ft. level south from 1,540 north winze, main shaft, driven 36 ft.—Lode 1 ft. wide, assaying 16 dwt. per ton. Taylor's Shaft, 1,804 ft. level south driven 49 ft.—Lode 1 ft. wide, assaying 3 dwt. per ton. Reserves practically the same as December 31. I estimate the return for this month about 5,600 oz." Last year was a record one in every sense of the word at their mine, and the shareholders might look forward to continuing prosperity for many years to come.

Mr. J. Shaw Kennedy seconded the motion.

Mr. Edgar Taylor said the report of the directors and of the mine superintendent went to show that they had had greater prosperity in 1903 than in any preceding year.

The report was adopted, and a resolution, proposed by Mr. Vere Smith, seconded by Captain Bickford, was passed, voting £2,500 for distribution among the directors, managers, and staff in London and the superintendent and staff in India, as a special recognition of their services in the past year.

The Chairman, in acknowledging the vote, said that from the earliest days he could remember, even when they had experienced times of trouble, the shareholders had always extended to the directors their support and assistance. On behalf of his colleagues, the managers, and the staff in India, he assured them that this generous vote was highly appreciated, especially by the staff in India.

The proceedings then terminated.

PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT.

The List of Subscriptions will Open on Tuesday, 29 March, 1904, and will close on Thursday, 31 March, 1904, at 4 P.M., for both Town and Country.

THE METROPOLITAN ELECTRIC TRAMWAYS, LIMITED.

Authorised Share Capital, £1,500,000.

Divided into 500,000 £1 per cent. Cumulative Preference Shares, 500,000 Ordinary Shares, and 500,000 Deferred Shares, all of £1 each, of which 1,032,555 have been issued, viz., 500,000 Preference Shares, 218,539 Ordinary Shares, and 314,016 Deferred Shares. 40,750 of the Ordinary Shares are only 6s. per Share paid.

A prospectus is being issued by the

ELECTRIC AND GENERAL INVESTMENT CO., LTD.,

1 and 2 Great Winchester Street, London, E.C.,

offering for subscription on behalf of the Metropolitan Electric Tramways, Limited,

£350,000 4½ per cent. Debenture Stock at Par.

Part of a total authorised amount ranking *pari passu*, equal to one-half the paid-up Capital of the Company for the time being.

The Stock will be constituted and secured by a Trust Deed to be made between the Company of the one part, and the Electric and General Investment Company, Limited, as Trustees, of the other part, whereby a first charge will be created as within stated upon the Company's whole undertaking, including its uncalled capital, subject as to the undertaking purchased from the North Metropolitan Tramways Company, to £150,000 3½ per cent. Debentures, redeemable at par in January, 1909, and for the redemption of which an equivalent amount of the unissued Debenture Stock, ranking *pari passu* with this issue, will be reserved.

The Trust Deed will also contain a covenant by the Company to establish a sinking fund and provide in January, 1908, and thereafter annually (1) a sum equal to 1 per cent. of the issued Stock, and (2) a sum equal to the interest on Stock already redeemed; with power to apply the same in purchase of Debenture Stock on the market.

The Stock is redeemable at £105 per cent. in either of the following events:—

(a) The voluntary liquidation of the Company; or  
(b) At the option of the Company at any time after the 31st December, 1930, the Company giving six months' notice in writing.

The Stock is payable as follows:—£5 per cent. on Application; £25 per cent. on Allotment; £35 per cent. on 2nd May, 1904; £45 per cent. on 1st June, 1904.

The Stock may be paid up in full on Allotment, and in such case will carry the full rate of interest from the date of such payment, otherwise interest will be calculated and paid on the instalments from the dates when they are paid.

The first payment of interest will be made on 1st July next, and thereafter will be payable half-yearly on 1st January and 1st July.

The Stock will be transferable in multiples of £1.

TRUSTEES FOR THE DEBENTURE STOCKHOLDERS.

THE ELECTRIC AND GENERAL INVESTMENT COMPANY, LIMITED, 1 and 2 Great Winchester Street, London, E.C.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

EMILE GARCKE, Chairman, Managing Director of the British Electric Traction Company, Limited.

Sir ERNEST SPENCER, M.P., Deputy-Chairman, Director of the Birmingham and Midland Tramways, Limited.

GEORGE RICHARDSON, Chairman of the North Metropolitan Tramways Company.

JOHN GODDARD, Deputy-Chairman of the North Metropolitan Tramways Company.

C. G. TEGETMEIER, Chairman of the Swansea Improvements and Tramways Company.

W. L. MAUGEN, Director of the British Electric Traction Company, Limited.

JAMES DEVONSHIRE, Managing Director.

BANKERS: PARR'S BANK, LIMITED, 52 Threadneedle Street, London, E.C.; BARCLAY & COMPANY, LIMITED, 54 Lombard Street, London, E.C.

BROKERS: FOSTER & BRAITHWAITE, 27 Austin Friars, London, E.C.; J. H. RONALD, 5 Throgmorton Avenue, London, E.C.

SOLICITOR: HUGH C. GODFRAY, 42 Finsbury Square, London, E.C.

AUDITORS: PRICE, WATERHOUSE & Co., 3 Frederick's Place, Old Jewry, London, E.C.

ENGINEER: ARTHUR H. POTT, M.I.E.E.

SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICES: A. L. BARBER, Evelyn House, 101 Finsbury Pavement, London, E.C.

The estimated profits available for payment of the interest on the £350,000 Debenture Stock now offered, amounting to £15,750, will be as follows:—

(1) From Investments .. .. .	£21,327
Less 3½ per cent. on £150,000 North Metropolitan Tramways Debentures .. .. .	£5,250
(2) Revenue from 8½ miles of Tramways .. .. .	£16,077
.. .. .	£32,000
Total .. .. .	£48,077

or more than three times the £15,750 required.

A Map, showing the routes of the various Tramways and Light Railways accompanies the Prospectus.

Applications for Debenture Stock must be made on the form accompanying the Prospectus (as filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies).

Prospectuses and Forms of Application can be obtained from the Bankers, the Brokers, the Electric and General Investment Company, Limited, and at the Offices of the Company.

BEYER, PEACOCK AND CO.

THE annual general meeting of Beyer, Peacock and Co., Limited, was held on Tuesday, at the Westminster Palace Hotel, Victoria Street, S.W., under the presidency of Sir Vincent Caillard (Chairman of the Company).

The Registrar (Mr. Alan S. King) having read the notice convening the meeting and the auditors' certificate,

The Chairman said: "No doubt some disappointment has been felt by the shareholders that the profits of the Company have to a considerable extent fallen off during the past year for which the accounts are presented. The condition of trade, the relative slackness of inquiries and of orders distributed, and the necessarily increased keenness of competition among the various makers which follows upon such a state of affairs, naturally produces a general fall in prices, which must have a marked effect upon our profit and loss account. Under such conditions, the fact that the Company has, nevertheless, earned a profit on trading for the year of over £48,000 is, I think, on the whole, not unsatisfactory. As I pointed out to you last year, we cannot always have good times; but, on the other hand, it would be exaggerated pessimism to think we must always have bad times. A depression of trade such as that which we are now passing through comes in cycles, and,

although at the present moment there is no sign of that depression lifting, we may, nevertheless, look upon it as probable that the return upward movement will not be postponed for a very considerable time longer, and when it comes we have no doubt whatever that you will see that the Company of Beyer-Peacock will take its full share of the more favourable circumstances." He then explained that when the Company took over the business from the old Company, the assets were valued at £800,000. After deduction of all interest and dividends they have increased from £800,000 to, in round figures, £850,000, which he hoped they would think proof of sound and careful administration. He continued: "I should also like particularly to draw your attention to the fact that although trade was not good last year, as I have previously stated, the directors have continued the policy of writing off depreciation to the full extent, and moreover, of introducing, to the largest extent possible, improvements in both the buildings and machinery in order that the works may be kept fully up to date, and that we may thus be in a state of complete preparation, when the turn of trade comes, to maintain our reputation for the best work in the trade, and at the same time to be able to offer that work at prices which will compete successfully with our rivals. Thus, we have introduced new machine-tools and new electric cranes; we have established a new framing shop, in order that the arrangement of the whole works may be more economical, and we have converted our motive power from steam into electricity. I am convinced that the shareholders will approve of this policy, which, after all, is merely a policy of putting ourselves in the position of being able to earn dividends; and that if they feel some disappointment at not receiving dividends this year at the rate at which they received them last year, they will fully appreciate that this does not arise from any want of vigilance or activity on the part of the board, but from circumstances over which no board can have control. As you will have seen in the report, the present managing director (Mr. G. P. Dawson) is about to retire. This gentleman has, so far, really occupied at the Gorton Works the position of a general manager, and we felt that, in choosing his successor in the general management, we should take all possible trouble to find the very best man for the post. If any of you are acquainted with the locomotive trade you will know that Mr. Hoy, whose services we have been fortunate enough to secure, is one of the best, or, perhaps, the best, locomotive designer in England. I now move: "That the report and accounts, with the dividends therein recommended, for the year ended December 31, 1903, as presented, be received and adopted."

Sir Frederic L. Robinson, K.C.B., seconded the motion.

Mr. Hollingsworth asked if the board thought it quite necessary to carry forward the large amount of £50,000. As the five per cent. dividend on the ordinary shares only absorbed £10,000, he suggested a dividend of 7½ per cent. should be declared, and moved an amendment to that effect.

Mr. Barton seconded the amendment.

The Chairman and Mr. T. Craven pointed out that it was wiser, in the interests of the company, to carry forward such a large amount to provide for what looked like a bad year before them for trade generally, and so keep themselves in a thoroughly sound position.

The amendment on being put to the meeting was lost, and the original resolution was then carried.

On the motion of Mr. Stobart, seconded by Mr. Metcalf, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded the Chairman, directors, and staff, and the proceedings terminated.

GREAT BOULDER PERSEVERANCE.

THE second ordinary general meeting of the Great Boulder Perseverance Gold Mining Company was held yesterday at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C., Mr. Frank Gardner presiding.

The Chairman said: "It gives me pleasure to meet you again and to have such a satisfactory position to place before you. We told you last year that we confidently expected to show better results for the year as compared with 1902, and our anticipations, I am glad to say, have been fully realised, and this result has been attained without any depletion of our ore reserves. These, you will recollect, were estimated at the end of 1902 at 383,600 tons. During last year we extracted and treated 132,593 tons, and increased our reserves of ore in sight to 401,677 tons, an increase over 1902 of 18,070 tons. This tonnage is sufficient to keep our sulphide plant working full time for three years at its present capacity. Mr. Nichols, in his report, calls your attention to the fact that these reserves are all above our 700-foot levels, no account being taken of ore known to exist below that level. We have now had some considerable experience of Mr. Nichols' estimates and statements in regard to our property, and that experience has taught us that we can confidently rely upon any statement to which he commits himself being more than borne out by facts, and I can safely assert that no single statement put forward by him has ever been controverted. I should like to say a few words in reference to the deep levels of the mine. I know you are all anxious on this subject, and perhaps it is not surprising when one reflects the absurd rumours one hears from time to time to the effect that the mine is being rapidly worked out, rumours set in circulation by parties who are interested in bearing the shares. Mr. Nichols' statement in his report that having proved the continuation of values in the Perseverance Lode below 1,100 feet, the present depth of our main shaft, he has given instructions for the main shaft to be carried down to the 1,300 feet level. If any assurance were needed in regard to this lode outside our own property we have it in the adjoining South Kalgurli Mine where the lode has been intersected by diamond drill a short distance from our boundary at a depth of 1,500 feet, 14 feet wide assaying 4 ozs. to the ton. Again at the other end of our property, the Lake View Company have the Perseverance Lode at their 1,000 feet level assaying 17 ozs. for a width of 2 feet, which was picked up in a cross-cut run almost on our boundary line. As regards the Lake View Lode, Mr. Nichols explains in his report why our developments on this lode in depth have been delayed. Now that the new compressor is installed we shall be able to push forward rapidly with the developments of the deep levels on both lodes, and I am certain there will be valuable surprises for us before long. You will notice from the sectional plan of this lode that no development, practically speaking, has been done below the 500 feet level. The lode has, however, been proved for us by the South Kalgurli Company, who, at their 700 feet level, have cut a branch of the lode giving 12 ozs. for a width of 6 feet, and at their 245 feet level have cut the same lode assaying 14 dwts. for a width of 10 feet. They have also proved the main lode at the latter depth only 90 feet away from our boundary. Where they first cut the main lode it was 19 feet wide and assayed 1 oz. to the ton, and having driven south towards our boundary, their latest report is a width of 11 feet with an assay of 2 ozs. to the ton. These discoveries on the leases of the South Kalgurli and the Lake View Companies, prove the Perseverance Lode 400 feet further north and 150 feet further south than we have driven on it at our 700 feet level, and the Lake View Lode 700 feet further north than where the pay shoot was first struck in our 700 feet level. I think, therefore, there can be no doubt as to the continuance of values in both our lodes at depth. With regard to the Tetley Lode, this has again been tested by diamond drill, and the results attained warrant the sinking of our No. 6 shaft, which will be a twofold advantage, as it will enable us to increase the output from the Silphide Plant whenever we wish to do so. In dealing with the accounts the Chairman said:—Our net profit for the whole year amounts to £396,566, as against £352,234 for 1902, an increase of £44,332, our expenditure showing an increase of only £3,350, as compared with 1902. The dividend paid in respect of 1903 are the same as for 1902, viz., £350,000. The total outcrop of the mine up to the end of 1903 has been 679,022 ozs. of value £2,425,843, out of which dividends amounting to £832,250 have been paid. In addition to charging against revenue of the whole cost of our development work we have also paid out of revenue practically the whole cost of our plant, a plant which, I may say, is acknowledged to be the most complete and modern sulphide plant in Australia. Every credit is due to Mr. Nichols and the staff under him for the satisfactory result attained during the past year. I move the adoption of the report and accounts."

Mr. Nichols congratulated the meeting on possessing such a fine property as the Great Boulder Perseverance, a property which had turned out even better than anticipated. The costs had been reduced, and he looked to still further reduction. Statements were being openly made that the deeper levels were going to prove unproductive, but he held a directly opposite opinion. The recent developments on the Kalgurli Property proved this. The resolution approving of the report was carried unanimously.

The appointment of Mr. J. S. Berwick and Mr. A. Reitinger as directors was confirmed, and a vote of thanks to the Chairman, expressing also unabated confidence in him, was unanimously carried.



# DEUTSCHE BANK.

Head Office: BERLIN.

London Office: 4 GEORGE YARD, LOMBARD STREET, E.C.

**CAPITAL FULLY PAID - Marks 160,000,000 (£8,000,000).**  
**RESERVE FUND - Marks 59,030,455 (£2,951,522).**

## BRANCHES:

LONDON, BREMEN, DRESDEN, FRANKFORT-ON-THE-MAIN, HAMBURG, LEIPSIK, MUNICH, and WIESBADEN.

## ANALYSIS OF THE YEARLY REPORT

Presented to the Shareholders at the Thirty-fourth Ordinary General Meeting, held in Berlin on the 22nd March, 1904.

The net profits of the year 1903 amounting to—  
 £1,215,380, represent 15.19 per cent. on the paid-up Capital of £8,000,000, and are  
 to be appropriated as follows:—

£80,000 to Dividend of 11 per cent. to Shareholders.  
 181,558 to Reserves.  
 36,129 to Directors.  
 75,000 to Superannuation Fund and Gratuities to Staff.  
 42,713 carried forward to New Account.

£1,215,380

In presenting to our Shareholders our Thirty-fourth Annual Report, we are pleased to be able to record that the business of our Bank during the past year has made satisfactory progress in all directions.

Assisted by a good average harvest, German trade has more rapidly recovered from the depression which had overtaken it in 1900, and shown greater elasticity than had been expected, thus proving that economic crises, when not originated by political events, pass away in these days more quickly than was the case a few decades ago. Both the imports and exports of the German Empire increased in a gratifying manner. The augmented export trade of the previous year resulted in a considerable influx of gold, constituting a reassuring factor at a time when the imports into Germany (excluding the precious metals) exceeded the exports by £50,200,000, a figure not approached since the year 1900. The indebtedness created annually by the excess of imports—due almost entirely to the purchases abroad of cereals required for the food supply of the rapidly-growing population of the country—is discharged in the first place by the income derived from the investment of German capital in foreign lands. These investments, in spite of assertions sometimes made to the contrary, have on the whole proved beneficial as adding to the national wealth, and it is desirable and even necessary that Germany should continue to receive such income from abroad as a useful set-off against its foreign liabilities.

The collapse in the upward movement in the United States, expected since 1902, took place during the year under review. In the late summer when prices had fallen to their lowest the depreciation which had taken place within a period of twelve months in the leading speculative securities dealt in on the New York Stock Exchange alone amounted to upwards of \$3,000,000,000. Nevertheless the economic vitality of the United States has only been temporarily impaired by this financial breakdown. The heavy demand for iron and steel, which had existed in the States previous to the crisis, led to purchases being made in Germany and gave German producers profitable employment at a time when the home consumption had fallen off. When these extraneous purchases ceased, the iron industry had had time by improved methods of manufacture to lower the cost of production and thus prepare itself to meet the reaction which then set in. We have further extended our relations with the Rhenish-Westphalian industrial districts, and derived therefrom a considerable amount of new business.

The hopes entertained at the beginning of the current year of further improvement in the economic situation have been disappointed by the outbreak of hostilities between Russia and Japan, and further developments depend on the course of politics. On the announcement of the war it became once more apparent to what extent the German Bourses had been crippled by impracticable legislation, and rendered unfit to successfully cope with exceptional circumstances. This experience may serve to spread the conviction that an unfettered financial market is scarcely less important to the defence of a country than its army and fleet.

Owing to greater industrial activity at home, and the higher value of loanable capital in London and New York an expansion is shown in our receipts from interest and discount. The average German Bank Rate—3.84 per cent.—exceeded by about 1 per cent. the rate of the previous year, although considerably lower than the rates ruling in the four preceding years. The average private rate of discount in Berlin in 1903 was 3 per cent., against only 2.186 per cent. in 1902. The average rate obtained for loans to the Stock Exchange on first-class securities was 4.296 per cent., as compared with 3.367 per cent. in the previous year.

The turnover of the Bank in the past year amounted to £2,982,000,000 against £2,839,150,000 in 1902. At our Head Office 1,973,344 Bills of Exchange were received and disposed of, the average amount of each bill being £246.

The business of all our Branches continues to develop steadily and to yield satisfactory results. Owing to the large amount of cotton imported and to the exceptionally high prices ruling for that article, a considerable increase is shown in the total of our acceptances.

The number of current, deposit and other accounts open in our books has increased during the year by 10,046—namely, from 97,592 to 107,638.

\* The sterling figures throughout this report represent the original mark amounts, at the approximate exchange of M. 20, equal to £1.

### GENERAL BALANCE-SHEET, December 31st, 1903.

Marks 20 = £1.

DR.	LIABILITIES.	ASSETS.	CR.
To Capital .. .. .	£8,000,000	By Cash .. .. .	£3,717,771
Reserve Funds .. .. .	2,769,984	Foreign Coin, Coupons, and Drawn Bonds in course of collection .. .. .	1,075,316
Current Accounts and Deposits .. .. .	39,468,719	Cash Balances with Banks and Bankers .. .. .	2,180,444
Bills Payable .. .. .	8,990,403	Bills Receivable .. .. .	17,139,297
Unclaimed Dividends .. .. .	1,165	Government, Railway, and other Investments .. .. .	2,785,821
Dr. G. von Siemens Pension Fund .. .. .	199,573	Shares of Allied Banks .. .. .	2,391,334
Sundries .. .. .	293,679	Stock Exchange Loans .. .. .	9,200,070
Profit and Loss Account .. .. .	1,215,380	Advances secured by Collateral Security .. .. .	14,635,489
Contingent Liability on Guarantees given on account of Customers, £1,527,516.		Debtors on Current Accounts .. .. .	2,066,661
		Loans on Goods, &c. .. .. .	1,089,035
		Syndicates .. .. .	1,652,921
		Bank Premises .. .. .	692,939
		Furniture and Fittings .. .. .	20
		Sundries .. .. .	5
	£60,937,993		£60,937,993

### PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, December 31st, 1903.

DR.		PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT, December 31st, 1903.		CR.
To General Expenses	£657,953	By Balance from 1902	£39,188	
(Including £97,568 Taxes and Stamps)		Gross Profit for 1903		
Amount written off Furniture and Premises Account	63,994	Interest, Discount, Dividends, and Exchange	£1,050,317	
Net Profit	1,815,380	Commission	503,799	
		Profit on Investments and Sundries	343,953	
	£1,937,257			1,898,069
				£1,937,257

After the General Meeting has been held, on March 22, 1904, and this report adopted, the London Agency, 4 George Yard, Lombard Street, E.C., will pay the 1903 Coupon, amounting to 11 per cent. on the nominal value of the shares, at the exchange of the day, less income tax.

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